

HAZ-FN-A-L 2021 Part #1



Bill as Introduced

HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

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2021 SESSION

21-1082
08/10

HOUSE BILL

2-FN-A-LOCAL

AN ACT relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

SPONSORS: Rep. Weyler, Rock. 13; Rep. L. Ober, Hills. 37; Rep. Edwards, Rock. 4; Rep. Umberger, Carr. 2

COMMITTEE: Finance

AMENDED ANALYSIS

1. Requires the judicial branch to reimburse the sheriff's offices for costs of court security and prisoner custody and control, within available funds appropriated by the legislature, and requires remote technology whenever possible.

2. Makes a transfer of unexpended funds to the state heating system savings account.

3. Eliminates the bureau of planning and management functions and moves such functions to the division of plant and property.

4. Establishes the graphic services fund in the department of administrative services.

5. Consolidates human resources and payroll functions in the department of administrative services.

6. Repeals the memorandum of understanding with the commissioner of the department of health and human services for the purpose of delineating the functions to be assumed by the department of administrative services.

7. Extends the date on which an appropriation to the department of administrative services for scheduling software lapses.

8. Directs the payment of state employee medical benefits payments from the retirement system.

9. Enables the supreme court to transfer funds.

10. Provides for the state to reimburse the sheriff's offices for court security for the biennium.

11. Enables the sale of the lakes region facility in Laconia.

12. Requires the commissioner of the department of health and human services to make quarterly reports on the status of estimated Medicaid payments in relation to actual costs.

13. Repeals provisions relative to the senior volunteer grant program.

14. Establishes the emergency services for children, youth, and families fund.

15. Eliminates certain parental reimbursements.

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16. Prohibits the distribution of state funds awarded by the department of health and human services to a reproductive health care facility for provision of abortion services.
17. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for streamlining agency operations.
18. Requiring the commissioner of the department of health and human services to submit an amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to suspend all catastrophic aid payments to hospitals for the biennium.
19. Enables the department of military affairs and veterans services to provide support for veterans' mental health and preventing social isolation.
20. Transfers the controlled drug prescription health and safety program to the department of health and human services.
21. Suspends revenue sharing with cities and towns for the biennium.
22. Enables the liquor commission to process merchant cards.
23. Enables the department of education to accept gifts, contributions, and bequests for the New Hampshire scholars program.
24. Changes the calculation for pupils eligible for a free or reduced price meals.
25. Makes transfers to the education trust fund.
26. Authorizes expenditures for energy efficient school buses.
27. Establishes the position of director of intergovernmental affairs in the department of business and economic affairs.
28. Repeals the bureau of film and digital media.
29. Suspends the crediting of meals and rooms tax revenue to the division of travel and tourism.
30. Enables the department of corrections to transfer funds.
31. Changes the approval threshold for contracts set by the governor and council manual of procedures.
32. Prohibits the dispersing of state aid grants for certain new infrastructure projects in the department of environmental services unless the state general fund unrestricted revenues as reported by the department of administrative services are above the revenue plan.
33. Renames the divisions of the office of professional licensure and certification and establishes pharmacy compliance investigator positions within the office.
34. Renames the divisions of the office of professional licensure and certification and establishes pharmacy compliance investigator positions within the office.
35. Makes an appropriation to the New Hampshire Internet crimes against children fund.
36. Transfers funds from the investors education fund and the department of justice consumer protection escrow account to the FRM victims recovery fund and removes the prospective repeal of the fund.

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37. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of funding one-time maintenance of the Medicaid management information system.
38. Amends the powers of the governor relating to declaring a state of emergency and authorizes the creation of a nominal state of emergency for the purpose of continuing a state of emergency for financial reasons.
39. Provides for transfer of funds from the revenue stabilization reserve account to the general fund surplus account based the most recent fiscal biennium rather than fiscal year.
40. Reduces the tax rate of, and in 2027 eliminates, the interest and dividends tax.
41. Reduces the tax rate of the meals and rooms tax.
42. Increases the filing threshold for the business enterprise tax and reduces the rate of the tax; and reduces the rate of the business profits tax.
43. Limits the amount of the credit allowed against overpayment of the business profits tax and the business enterprise tax and establishes a commission to study limiting the business tax credit carry over.
44. Allows the New Hampshire veterans' home to transfer funds within accounting units for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.
45. Revises the procedure for compensation for loss of agricultural products or livestock due to bears.
46. Establishes the New Hampshire higher education merger assessment commission.
47. Authorizes the department of information technology to fill unfunded positions.
48. Modifies the composition and operation of the adult parole board and permits remote meetings during a pandemic or other declared state of emergency.
49. Requires employer pro rata payments to the workers' compensation administration fund to be based on the preceding calendar year ratios and amends the payment of per diems to workers' compensation appeals board members.
50. Makes various changes to the apprenticeship programs in trade and industry.
51. Amends the unemployment compensation fund balance necessary to trigger increases or decreases in employer contributions to the fund and repeals the emergency surcharge power of the commissioner of the department of employment security.
52. Imposes strict liability on any person who renders any highway unsuitable for public travel, including full and current replacement cost.
53. Provides that proceeds from a sale that results from money provided by the highway fund for payback of real property purchased with federal funds shall be credited to the department of transportation for the purpose of meeting federal obligations or reimbursing the highway fund for payment of federal obligations.
54. Adds definitions relating to small unmanned aircraft and small unmanned aircraft systems to the New Hampshire aeronautics act.
55. Amends an appropriation to the department of transportation for the 2018 fiscal year and provides that it lapse to the highway fund and be expended for the purpose of funding state red list bridge projects.

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56. Appropriates funds to the department of cultural and natural resources for state park and recreational area projects.

57. Establishes a body-worn and dashboard camera fund and makes an appropriation to the fund; establishes a classified business administrator I position in the department of safety; and establishes a commission to develop recommendations for legislation to establish a single, neutral, and independent statewide entity to receive complaints alleging misconduct regarding all sworn and elected law enforcement officers.

58. Requires the department of safety, in collaboration with the department of administrative services, to establish standards for radio infrastructure-related hardware, computers, software, related licenses, media, documentation, support and maintenance services.

59. Establishes within the department of justice an unclassified position of director of diversity and community outreach.

60. Authorizes the judicial council to request additional funding expenditures for termination of parental rights services that are greater than amounts appropriated in the operating budget.

61. Moves the governor's scholarship program and fund from the office of strategic initiatives to the college tuition savings plan and authorizes the college tuition savings plan advisory commission to transfer funds between the governor's scholarship fund and the New Hampshire excellence in higher education endowment trust fund.

62. Transfers the regulation of audiologists and hearing aid dealers to the governing board of speech language pathology.

63. Establishes the department of energy, to govern energy and utilities matters, and have oversight on matters under the public utilities commission.

64. Administratively attaches the public utilities commission to the department of energy and makes corresponding changes to existing laws relating to the organization and duties of the public utilities commission to reflect this change.

65. Transfers certain duties from the public utilities commission to the department of energy.

66. Adds the commissioner of the department of energy to the New Hampshire site evaluation committee.

67. Requires that the department of energy advocate for New Hampshire in regional activities concerning competitive electricity suppliers.

68. Requires that the department of energy require electric and gas utilities to operate an online energy data platform and, in conjunction with the public utilities commission, implement a statewide electric utility restructuring plan.

69. Requires the bank commissioner to charge the public deposit investment pool for actual costs incurred by the banking department to operate the pool.

70. Removes the consideration of weighted apportionment factors under the business profits tax from inclusion in the tax expenditure report and includes the regional career and technical education center tax credit.

71. Delays the enactment of the single sales factor for determining apportionment under the business profits tax and the business enterprise tax and extends and amends the legislative committee on apportionment.

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72. Defines and regulates pari-mutuel pools on historic horse racing.
73. Allowing the department of employment security to participate in a department of labor information hub to combat fraud and waste.
74. Makes changes to liquor license fees for agency licenses and retail tobacco licenses and clarifies certain other liquor license fee provisions.
75. Renames the enforcement and licensing division in the liquor commission as education and licensing and renames liquor investigators as liquor license specialists.
76. Defines and prohibits the dissemination of certain divisive concepts related to sex and race in state contracts, grants, and training programs.
77. Requires violations of the governor's emergency orders regarding the Covid-19 pandemic to be reversed.
78. Creates a database for animal records; renames animal health certificates as certificates of transfer; authorizes the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food to transfer money to and from certain funds in order to establish the animal record database and to repay monies transferred from other funds; and establishes a position in the department of information technology for the building and management of the animal records database.
79. Establishes the dual and concurrent enrollment program in the community college system of New Hampshire and amends the administrative responsibilities for the program.
80. Makes an appropriation to the community college system of New Hampshire for the dual and concurrent enrollment program.
81. Increases the limit on the amount of the annual grant for leased space provided to a chartered public school.
82. Requires the department of education to develop and maintain a 10-year plan for school building grant projects.
83. Provides that the amount necessary to fund kindergarten adequate education grants shall be appropriated from the education trust fund; authorizes the governor to draw a warrant to eliminate a deficit if the balance in the education trust fund falls below zero; and makes an appropriation to the department of education for fiscal year 2020 kindergarten funding.
84. Provides that members-at-large are included as representatives of the same town as a deceased member of a school planning committee for the purpose of filling vacancies.
85. Makes an appropriation to the education trust fund.
86. Makes an appropriation to the department of transportation for federal and state highway aid, the highway and bridge betterment program, the acquisition of fleet vehicles, and for winter maintenance operations.
87. Makes an appropriation to the department of education to accelerate remaining school building aid payments to school districts.
88. Reduces the amount of education tax revenue to be raised for the 2023 fiscal year.
89. Requires the department of health and human services to fund employment-related child care services without a wait list.

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90. Addresses the criteria for secure detention pending adjudication and the circumstances in which a minor may be committed to the department of health and human services for the remainder of his or her minority.

91. Requires the closure of the Sununu youth services center and the transfer of all children committed or detained at the facility.

92. Establishes a commission to study the closure of the Sununu youth services center.

93. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the general purpose of closing the Sununu youth services center and related activities.

94. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for job training and incentive programs for state workers with priority given to employees displaced by the closure of the Sununu youth services center.

95. Directs the department of administrative services to take possession of the Sununu youth services center (SYSC) property.

96. Limits further expansion of the closed loop referral system by the department of health and human services pending review of the system by the legislative oversight committee on health and human services.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough~~].
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Reimbursement of Sheriff's Offices. Amend RSA 104:31, X-XI to read as follows:

2 X. ***The judicial branch shall incorporate remote technology whenever possible to***
3 ***minimize the amount of physical transportation and security time associated with court***
4 ***hearings.***

5 XI. The [state] ***judicial branch*** shall reimburse the sheriff's office for court security,
6 within available funds appropriated by the legislature, \$80 for each full day and \$40 for each half
7 day, plus traveling expenses to attend any official business, for any person employed as a bailiff by
8 the sheriff's office. For the purpose of this paragraph, a half day shall be defined as a day in which a
9 bailiff works 4 hours or less. The [state] ***judicial branch*** shall reimburse the counties, within
10 available funds appropriated by the legislature, for all costs associated with employing court bailiffs,
11 if those costs are the result of job requirements imposed by federal and state governments.

12 ~~XI~~ XII. The [state] ***judicial branch*** shall reimburse the sheriff's office for prisoner
13 custody and control, within available funds appropriated by the legislature, \$65 for each full day and
14 \$35 for each half day, plus traveling expenses to attend any official business, for any person
15 employed as a sheriff for prisoner custody and control. For the purpose of this paragraph, a half day
16 shall be defined as a day in which a sheriff works 4 hours or less. The [state] ***judicial branch*** shall
17 reimburse the counties, within available funds appropriated by the legislature, for all costs
18 associated with employing sheriffs, if those costs are the result of job requirements imposed by
19 federal and state governments. Billing for reimbursement of costs associated with video
20 arraignments shall not be allowed under this paragraph. Custody and control of prisoners for the
21 purpose of video arraignments shall be the responsibility of the county in which the video
22 arraignment occurs, and such custody and control may be exercised by county correctional officers.

23 2 State Heating System Savings Account. Amend RSA 21-I:19-ff to read as follows:

24 21-I:19-ff State Heating System Savings Account. There is hereby established the state heating
25 system savings account for the transfer of unexpended state heating system appropriations due to
26 reduced heating system costs resulting from the 26 state buildings served by the Concord Steam
27 project authorized in 2017, 2. Notwithstanding RSA 21-I:19-e, at the end of each state fiscal year,
28 the commissioner of administrative services shall identify the unexpended appropriations in the
29 accounts and class lines for the 26 state buildings served by the replacement of the Concord Steam
30 facility. The commissioner shall deposit such sums into the account established by this section.
31 Funds in the state heating system savings account shall be nonlapsing and appropriated to the

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1 department of administrative services for the biennium ending June 30, [2019] **2021**, and the fiscal
2 year ending [2020] **June 30, 2022** and may be used to pay principal and interest on bonds and notes
3 issued to fund the capital project for the heating of state facilities located at the Governor Hugh J.
4 Gallen state office park and state-owned buildings in downtown Concord.

5 3 Divisions of Procurement and Support Services; Planning and Management Functions.
6 Amend RSA 21-I:11,I(c)(4) to read as follows:

7 (4) Supervising the [~~activities and functions of the bureau of~~] planning and
8 management **functions of** [~~under~~] RSA 21-I:12, II(a).

9 4 New Subparagraph; Graphic Services Fund Established; Department of Administrative
10 Services. Amend RSA 21-I:12, I by inserting after subparagraph (e) the following new
11 subparagraph:

12 (f)(1) There is hereby established in the state treasury a graphic services fund, which
13 shall be a revolving fund administered by the department of administrative services. The fund shall
14 be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the department of administrative services. Revenue
15 received by the bureau of graphic services shall be deposited into this fund.

16 (2) The graphic services fund shall be maintained at such a level as to cover the
17 necessary costs of the administration, management, operations, activities, positions, capital, or other
18 needs of the bureau of graphic services. The department of administrative services may use any
19 excess amounts in the fund to fund the administration, management, operations, positions,
20 activities, capital, or other needs of the department or any of its divisions, bureaus, units, or
21 subunits.

22 5 Division of Plant and Property; Planning and Management. Amend RSA 21-I:12, II to read as
23 follows:

24 II. The division of plant and property shall [~~include the following internal organizational~~
25 ~~units and functions~~]:

26 (a) [~~A bureau of planning and management under the supervision of a classified~~
27 ~~administrator of planning and management who shall be~~] Be responsible for the following functions
28 **relative to planning and management**, in accordance with applicable laws:

29 (1) Recommending assignment of office and office-related space, including rented
30 space, or space under consideration for rental, to the director, who shall report such
31 recommendations to the commissioner.

32 (2) Preparing and maintaining an inventory of all physical space in real property
33 rented or leased for use by the state. This inventory shall be made available to the comptroller in
34 order to assist the comptroller to comply with accounting principles.

35 (3) Planning for any additional office space needs of the state in consultation with
36 the division of public works design and construction.

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1 (4) Planning for any major renovation to state office buildings in consultation with
2 the division of public works design and construction.

3 (5) Centrally managing all space rented by, or all proposed rentals of space by, state
4 agencies, and providing central administration and management of the processes by which space is
5 rented by state agencies, except as is otherwise provided by law. Unless otherwise allowed by law,
6 agencies seeking to rent space shall do so only in consultation with the bureau of planning and
7 management. The central management and administration provided by the bureau shall include
8 assisting agencies in their selection of property, in the formulation of rental documents, in the
9 preparation of notices, in agencies' solicitation of bids or proposals and selection of lessors, in space
10 planning, in office layout, and in such other matters as are necessary for effective central planning
11 and management relative to rented space but shall not include the power to enter into rental
12 agreements on behalf of an agency.

13 (b) ***Include the following internal organizational units and functions:***

14 (1) A bureau of general services under the supervision of a classified administrator
15 of general services who shall be responsible for the following functions, in accordance with applicable
16 laws:

17 ~~[(1)]~~ (A) Providing support services, including but not limited to, mailing and
18 messenger services to state government.

19 ~~[(2)]~~ (B) Providing for the general maintenance of state-owned buildings and
20 grounds, except as otherwise provided by law.

21 ~~[(e)]~~ (2) A bureau of court facilities under the supervision of a classified administrator
22 who shall be responsible for the following functions, in accordance with applicable laws:

23 ~~[(1)]~~ (A) Providing suitable court facilities for the conduct of all court sessions held
24 within each judicial district and county, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, in
25 accordance with RSA 490-B.

26 ~~[(2)]~~ (B) Providing for the general maintenance of state-owned court buildings and
27 grounds, except as otherwise provided by law.

28 ~~[(d)]~~ (C) ***Be responsible for*** the department's functions relating to energy management,
29 managed by such personnel as may be assigned by the commissioner.

30 ~~[(e)]~~ (D) ***Be responsible for*** the department's support of facilities of the department of
31 health and human services managed by such personnel as may be assigned by the commissioner.

32 6 Department of Administrative Services; Payment and Procurement Card Fund. Amend RSA
33 9-D:3, III to read as follows:

34 III. All funds accumulated from rebates under RSA 9-D:2, I(a) or (b) shall be deposited in the
35 fund established in paragraph I. Expenditures from the fund shall be restricted to the following
36 purposes:

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1 (a) Paying the necessary costs of administration and management of the credit,
2 payment, or procurement card programs handled by the department of administrative services and
3 maintaining a working capital reserve in an amount, not to exceed \$25,000, which is deemed
4 sufficient by the division of procurement and support services to cover the costs of the programs and
5 to pay amounts under ~~[subparagraph]~~ **subparagraphs (b)(1) and (2)**.

6 (b) After deducting the foregoing amounts, making such payments, if any, that the
7 department of administrative services concludes are appropriately payable:

8 (1) By an entity which is part of the state to any credit, payment, or procurement
9 card issuer under contracts secured by the division of procurement and support services pursuant to
10 RSA 21-I, including but not limited to payments for purchases and payments which must be made in
11 order for the state to obtain available rebates, or to avoid incurring, or to pay, interest, penalties, or
12 ~~other costs imposed on the state by issues of credit, payment, or procurement cards.~~

13 (2) ~~[To the state's general fund or any federal, highway, turnpike, or liquor fund, as~~
14 ~~a share of rebates obtained on credit card contracts under RSA 9 D:2. The] **To the** department of~~
15 ~~administrative services [shall pay any remaining] **to address its procurement-related needs or**~~
16 ~~**expenses. The department may use** rebate amounts to [the general] fund **its administration,**~~
17 ~~**management, operations, positions, activities or capital, or other needs, or the needs of any**~~
18 ~~**of its divisions, bureaus, units or subunits, relating to the procurement of goods or services.**~~

19 7 New Subparagraph; Graphic Services Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after
20 subparagraph (364) the following new subparagraph:

21 (365) Moneys received by the department of administrative services, division of
22 procurement and support services, bureau of graphic services which shall be credited to the graphic
23 services fund established in RSA 21-I: 12, I (f).

24 8 Department of Administrative Services; Consolidation of Human Resources and Payroll
25 Functions.

26 I. Notwithstanding any law or administrative rule to the contrary, the commissioner of
27 administrative services, with the prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court and the
28 governor and council, may make such transfers of appropriation items and changes in allocations of
29 funds available for operational purposes to the department of administrative services from any other
30 agency necessary to effectuate the efficient consolidation or deconsolidation of human resources,
31 payroll, and business processing functions within state government. Such business processing
32 functions shall include:

33 (a) Accounts receivable;

34 (b) Accounts payable;

35 (c) Collection of fines, penalties, fees, restitution, remittances, and other moneys due to
36 the state; and

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1 (d) Such additional finance, accounting, and other functions and transactions that the
2 commissioner of administrative services determines may potentially achieve substantial efficiencies
3 from consolidation.

4 II. The commissioner of administrative services may establish the number of total personnel
5 required for human resources, payroll, and business processing functions in the executive branch of
6 state government and, with the prior approval of the governor and council, may eliminate
7 unnecessary positions and may transfer positions to or from the department of administrative
8 services to or from any other agency if the commissioner of administrative services concludes that
9 such transfers or eliminations are necessary to effectuate the efficient consolidation or
10 deconsolidation of human resources, payroll, or business processing functions within state
11 government. Such transfers may, if deemed appropriate by the commissioner of administrative
12 services, include the transfer of all associated books, papers, records, personnel files, and equipment,
13 including, but not limited to, work station and information technology equipment, and may, if
14 deemed appropriate by the commissioner of administrative services, include the transfer of any
15 unexpended appropriations for any of the foregoing, and any unexpended appropriations for salary,
16 payroll, benefits, support costs, or any other costs associated with the transferred personnel. The
17 department of administrative services may also establish new full-time temporary positions within
18 the department, if the commissioner of administrative services deems it necessary to effectuate the
19 efficient consolidation or deconsolidation of human resources, payroll, or business processing
20 functions.

21 III. The commissioner of administrative services may locate personnel whose positions have
22 been transferred in such work spaces as the commissioner determines will efficiently effectuate the
23 consolidation or deconsolidation of functions. Such work spaces may include either space currently
24 owned or rented by the state, or space which may be rented by the commissioner utilizing amounts
25 which may be saved by the state as the result of the consolidation or deconsolidation of functions.

26 IV. If the commissioner of administrative services consolidates, deconsolidates or, pursuant
27 to 2015, 276:2 or other law, has consolidated or deconsolidated, any human resources, payroll, or
28 business processing function and subsequently determines that such consolidation or deconsolidation
29 is not cost effective or beneficial to the interests of the state, the commissioner may, with the prior
30 approval of the fiscal committee of the general court, deconsolidate or reconsolidate, fully or
31 partially, any human resources, payroll, or business processing function within the executive branch
32 of state government. As part of a deconsolidation, the commissioner, after consultation with the
33 heads of such executive branch agencies as may be affected, shall determine positions to be
34 transferred to another agency, shall determine positions to be transferred elsewhere within the
35 department of administrative services, or shall determine positions to be eliminated.

36 V. Any unspent balance remaining of the \$250,000 appropriation made by 2011, 224:86 to
37 the department of administrative services for the biennium ending June 30, 2013, for the purpose of

1 selecting and retaining an independent business processing consultant to evaluate and make
2 recommendations relative to the consolidation of business processing functions within state
3 government, shall not lapse until June 30, 2023. The department of administrative services may use
4 this balance to fund such projects, functions, or activities as the commissioner of administrative
5 services may direct relating to the efficiency of state government, including, but not limited to, the
6 selection and retention of an independent business processing consultant and/or other projects,
7 functions, or activities relating to the consolidation or deconsolidation of human resource, payroll,
8 and business processing functions.

9 9 New Paragraphs; Department of Administrative Services; State Employee Health Plan;
10 Application. Amend RSA 21-I:30 by inserting after paragraph XVI the following new paragraphs:

11 XVII. The cost sharing and plan design for unrepresented active state employees who
12 participate in the health plans offered by the state shall be the same as those for individuals covered
13 by the collective bargaining agreement between the state of New Hampshire and the State
14 Employees' Association of New Hampshire, Inc. Changes to the above plan design cost sharing
15 provisions consistent with RSA 21-I:30, I are permitted with the prior approval of the fiscal
16 committee of the general court. The cost sharing and plan designs for represented active state
17 employees who participate in the health plans offered by the state shall be in accordance with the
18 provisions of the collective bargaining agreements between the state and the employee organizations
19 representing those employees.

20 XVIII. Agencies may use funds in existing class 60 budgets to pay any penalties imposed
21 under the employer shared responsibility for health coverage under section 4980H of the Internal
22 Revenue Code.

23 10 All Agencies; Electronic Mail. Unless restricted by law or administrative rule, upon request
24 of an intended recipient, an agency may provide documents by electronic mailing in lieu of mail.

25 11 Department of Administrative Services; Funding and Staffing Resource Limitations.

26 I. Due to inadequate funding and staffing resources at the department of administrative
27 services, the commissioner of the department of administrative services may suspend the obligations
28 or requirements under RSA 21-I:7-c as it applies to addressing performance and financial legislative
29 budget assistant audit findings from 2006, 2011, and 2014 regarding management of the employee
30 and retiree health benefit program, including establishing rules and operational policies for the
31 program, for each fiscal year of the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

32 II. Due to inadequate funding and staffing resources at the department of administrative
33 services, the commissioner of the department of administrative services may suspend the following
34 requirements or obligations of the department for each fiscal year of the biennium ending June 30,
35 2023:

36 (a) The provisions relating to identification and implementation of energy efficiency
37 projects in compliance with the governor's executive order 2016-03.

1 (b) The provisions relating to data analysis and the development of performance metrics
 2 for buildings and vehicles to monitor energy and water usage, use of fossil fuels, and greenhouse gas
 3 emissions in compliance with governor's executive order 2016-03.

4 (c) Rulemaking required by RSA 21-I:14, V, standards for the provision of graphic
 5 services which will ensure efficiency and high quality work; RSA 21-I:14, VI, standards governing
 6 the purchasing and continuing ownership of graphic services equipment by agencies not exempted by
 7 RSA 21-I:12, I(e); RSA 21-I:14, VII, standards governing the allocation and use of state photocopiers
 8 by the agencies not exempted by RSA 21-I:12, I(e); RSA 21-I:14, XIII, management of the state
 9 employees and retiree group insurance program authorized by RSA 21-I:26 through 36 and the
 10 programs established in RSA 21-I:44-a and RSA 21-I:44-b; and RSA 21-I:14, XVI, public works
 11 services, including bidding for major projects as described in RSA 21-I:78, as authorized by RSA 21-
 12 I:80; RSA 21-I:81, and RSA 21-I:82, bidder qualifications, agency requests for public works services,
 13 charges and fees, selection of persons or entities to perform public works projects, public works
 14 construction and design, dispute resolution, and such other requirements or procedures relating to
 15 public works as are necessary for the division of public works design and construction to properly
 16 perform its duties and functions in accordance with applicable law.

17 12 Repeal. 2005, 291:3, V(c), relative to the memorandum of understanding with the
 18 commissioner of the department of health and human services for the purpose of delineating the
 19 functions to be assumed by the department of administrative services, is repealed.

20 13 Appropriation; Department of Administrative Services. Any remainder of the sum of
 21 \$1,300,000 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 to the department of administrative
 22 services for the purpose of obtaining scheduling software under 2019, 346:244 shall not lapse until
 23 June 30, 2023. The governor is hereby authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money
 24 in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

25 14 Retirement System; Medical Benefits. Amend RSA 100-A:52, III-III-a to read as follows:

26 III. In the case of group II members retired from state employment before July 1, 1991, and
 27 their beneficiaries who are eligible for coverage under this subdivision and also under the provisions
 28 of RSA 21-I:26-36, ~~[the amount payable by]~~ the retirement system **shall pay not less than the**
 29 **amounts provided in paragraph II** on account of such persons **and** shall ~~[be paid]~~ **pay those**
 30 **amounts** over to the state. ~~[and]~~ **Such payments shall be** used to pay for all or part of the medical
 31 benefits provided under RSA 21-I:26-36 for such persons, and the balance shall be paid by the state
 32 as provided in RSA 21-I:26-36.

33 III-a. In the case of group II members retired from state employment on or after July 1,
 34 1991, and their beneficiaries who are eligible for coverage under this subdivision and also under the
 35 provisions of RSA 21-I:26-36, ~~[the amount payable by]~~ the retirement system **shall pay not less**
 36 **than the amounts provided in paragraph II** on account of such persons **and** shall ~~[be paid]~~ **pay**
 37 **those amounts** over to the state. ~~[and]~~ **Such payments shall be** used to pay for all or part of the

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1 medical benefits provided under RSA 21-I:26-36 for such persons, and the state shall pay its portion
2 as provided in RSA 21-I:26-36. If the cost of the premium for any retired group II member and
3 spouse, surviving spouse, or any other person entitled to benefits under paragraph I shall exceed the
4 maximum under paragraph II, and the state does not elect to pay the excess cost above the amount
5 to be paid under RSA 21-I:26-36, the excess cost shall be paid by the retiree or qualified surviving
6 spouse and may be deducted from retirement benefits as provided in RSA 100-A:51. The state may
7 require, as a condition for coverage, that the retiree or surviving spouse apply for deduction of such
8 excess cost from retirement benefits as provided in RSA 100-A:51.

9 15 Retirement System; Medical Benefits. Amend RSA 100-A:52-b, V-VI to read as follows:

10 V. As of July 1, 2001, in the case of group I members retired from state employment before
11 July 1, 1991, and their beneficiaries who are eligible for coverage under this subdivision and also
12 under the provisions of RSA 21-I:26-36, [~~the amount payable by~~] the retirement system **shall pay**
13 **not less than the amounts provided in paragraph II** on account of such persons **and** shall [~~be~~
14 ~~paid~~] **pay those** over to the state. [~~and~~] **Such payments shall be** used to pay for all or part of the
15 medical benefits provided under RSA 21-I:26-36 for such persons, and the balance shall be paid by
16 the state as provided in RSA 21-I:26-36.

17 VI. As of July 1, 2001, in the case of group I members retired from state employment on or
18 after July 1, 1991, and their beneficiaries who are eligible for coverage under this subdivision and
19 also under the provisions of RSA 21-I:26-36, [~~the amount payable by~~] the retirement system **shall**
20 **pay not less than the amounts provided in paragraph II** on account of such persons **and** shall
21 [~~be paid~~] **pay those amounts** over to the state. [~~and~~] **Such payments shall be** used to pay for all or
22 part of the medical benefits provided under RSA 21-I:26-36 for such persons, and the state shall pay
23 its portion as provided in RSA 21-I:26-36. If the cost of the premium for any retired group I member
24 and spouse, surviving spouse, or any other person entitled to benefits under paragraph I shall exceed
25 the maximum under paragraph III, and the state does not elect to pay the excess cost above the
26 amount to be paid under RSA 21-I:26-36, the excess cost shall be paid by the retiree or qualified
27 surviving spouse and may be deducted from retirement benefits as provided in RSA 100-A:51. The
28 state may require, as a condition for coverage, that the retiree or surviving spouse apply for
29 deduction of such excess cost from retirement benefits as provided in RSA 100-A:51.

30 16 Judicial Branch; Transfer Among Accounts and Classes. Notwithstanding any provision of
31 law to the contrary, and subject to approval of the fiscal committee of the general court, for the
32 biennium ending June 30, 2023, the supreme court may transfer funds within and among all
33 accounting units within the judicial branch as the supreme court deems necessary and appropriate
34 to address budget reductions or to respond to changes in federal laws, regulations, or programs, and
35 otherwise as necessary for the efficient management of the judicial branch. If the supreme court
36 intends to transfer funds which would otherwise meet the transfer requirements as set forth in RSA

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1 9:17-d, prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court shall be required for transfers of
2 \$100,000 or more.

3 17 Judicial Branch; Reimbursement of Sheriff's Office for Court Security. For the biennium
4 ending June 30, 2023, the state shall reimburse the sheriff's office for court security at the rates
5 provided in the collective bargaining agreement applicable to per diem court security officers
6 employed by the judicial branch to attend any official business, for any person employed as a bailiff
7 by the sheriff's office.

8 18 Lakeshore Redevelopment Planning Commission; Duties of the Commission. Amend RSA
9 10:7, IX to read as follows:

10 IX. Make recommendations for any legislative changes necessary to implement the
11 recommendations by the commission, *including the sale of any part of the facility, to the*
12 *commissioner of the department of administrative services and the long range capital*
13 *planning and utilization committee.*

14 19 New Section; Sale of Lakes Region Facility. Amend RSA 10 by inserting after section 10 the
15 following new section:

16 10:11 Lakes Region Facility; Sale. Any sale of the land or buildings comprising the lakes region
17 facility shall be subject to the requirements of RSA 4:40. All proceeds from the sale shall be
18 deposited into the general fund.

19 20 Commissioner of Health and Human Services; Quarterly Reports. During the biennium
20 ending June 30, 2023, the commissioner of health and human services shall make quarterly reports
21 to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the senate president on the status
22 of estimated Medicaid payments in relation to actual costs. Further contents of such reports shall be
23 as specified by the governor.

24 21 Department of Health and Human Services; Unfunded Positions; Authorization.
25 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the department of health and human
26 services may fill unfunded positions during the biennium ending June 30, 2023, provided that the
27 total expenditure for such positions shall not exceed the amount appropriated for personal services.

28 22 Repeal. The following are repealed:

29 I. RSA 161-F:37, relative to the department of health and human services administration of
30 congregate services.

31 II. RSA 161-F:40, relative to the establishment of the senior volunteer grant program.

32 III. RSA 161-F:41, relative to rulemaking for the senior volunteer grant program.

33 23 Department of Health and Human Services; Social Services Block Grant Cost of Living
34 Adjustment to Income Levels. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the biennium ending
35 June 30, 2023, the department of health and human services shall raise the income eligibility for
36 elderly and adult clients under the social services block grant program each January, by the
37 percentage amount of the cost of living increase in social security benefits on a yearly basis provided

1 such amount is consistent with federal law and regulations relative to the social services block grant
2 income eligibility.

3 24 County Reimbursement of Funds; Limitations on Payments. Amend RSA 167:18-a to read as
4 follows:

5 167:18-a County Reimbursement of Funds; Limitations on Payments.

6 I. These expenditures shall in the first instance be made by the state, but each county shall
7 make monthly payments to the state for the amounts due under this section within 45 days from
8 notice thereof.

9 (a) Counties shall reimburse the state for expenditures for recipients for whom such
10 county is liable who are eligible for nursing home care and are receiving services from a licensed
11 nursing home, or in another New Hampshire setting as an alternative to a licensed nursing home
12 placement and are supported under the Medicaid home and community-based care waiver for the
13 elderly and chronically ill, as such waiver may be amended from time to time, to the extent of 100
14 percent of the non-federal share of such expenditures. *If at any point the Federal Medical*
15 *Assistance Percentage increases, the counties' portion of the non-federal share shall be*
16 *reduced by the amount of the increased federal percentage, if allowable under federal law*
17 *and subject to any conditions on the funding.* Expenditures shall not include payments made
18 for skilled care.

19 (b) Counties shall not be liable for Medicaid recipients in state institutions, the Crotched
20 Mountain Rehabilitation Center, and intermediate care facilities (ICF) approved by the department
21 of health and human services and servicing developmentally impaired persons.

22 II.(a) The total billings to all counties made pursuant to this section shall not exceed the
23 amounts set forth below for state fiscal years ~~[2020-2021]~~ **2022-2023**:

24 (1) State fiscal year ~~[2020]~~ **2022**, ~~[\$123,372,750]~~ **\$129,362,411.**

25 (2) State fiscal year ~~[2021]~~ **2023**, ~~[\$126,923,933]~~ **\$131,849,659.**

26 (b) The caps on total billings for fiscal years after fiscal year 2015 shall be established by
27 the legislature at least on a biennial basis.

28 III.(a) *The cap in total billings shall not exceed an annual increase of 2 percent in*
29 *any year of the biennium.*

30 (b) The counties shall have an aggregate credit of \$5,000,000 against amounts due
31 under this section for each fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008. The credit shall be allocated as
32 follows:

33 (1) For fiscal year 2009, \$4,000,000 shall be allocated among the counties based upon
34 the proportion each paid for such expenditures in the prior fiscal year, and \$1,000,000 shall be
35 allocated among the counties based upon their relative proportions of residents age 65 or older who
36 are Medicaid recipients.

1 (2) For fiscal year 2010, \$2,000,000 shall be allocated among the counties based upon
2 the proportion each paid for such expenditures in the prior fiscal year, and \$3,000,000 shall be
3 allocated among the counties based upon their relative proportions of residents age 65 or older who
4 are Medicaid recipients.

5 (3) For fiscal year 2011 and for each fiscal year thereafter, \$5,000,000 shall be
6 allocated among the counties based upon their relative proportions of residents age 65 or older who
7 are Medicaid recipients.

8 (4) *For fiscal year 2021, in addition to the \$5,000,000 allocated pursuant to*
9 *subparagraph III(b)(3), a credit of \$9,721,305 shall be allocated among the counties based*
10 *upon their relative proportions of residents aged 65 years of age or older who are Medicaid*
11 *recipients.*

12 [(b)] (c) The credit shall be made available as soon as possible after the start of the fiscal
13 year. The department shall adopt county credit criteria in consultation with the county-state finance
14 commission and in accordance with the provisions of RSA 541-A. The total aggregate obligation of
15 the counties shall be reduced by the amount of the credit in each fiscal year.

16 IV. *Budgeted general funds shall be applied to the funding of Medicaid long-term*
17 *services and supports after the allocation of the credit and prior to any county funds.*

18 V. Notwithstanding the procedures of paragraphs I-III of this section, no county shall be
19 liable for total billings in fiscal year 2009 or fiscal year 2010 in an amount which would be greater
20 than the amount of liability projected for that fiscal year using the methodology for determining
21 county payments in former RSA 167:18-a, 167:18-b, and 167:18-f prior to its repeal together with the
22 amount of liability projected for that fiscal year using the repealed methodology for determining
23 county payments in RSA 169-B, 169-C, and 169-D.

24 [V.] VI.(a) Any shortfall between the state audited Medicaid allowances incurred by the
25 state's county operated nursing homes and amounts otherwise reimbursed by federal 50 percent
26 Medicaid matching funds or other income, shall be certified as a public expenditure and be eligible
27 for additional federal funding match.

28 (b) The department of health and human services shall seek federal Medicaid assistance
29 match for any state audited county nursing home Medicaid expense which is not fully reimbursed
30 through rates. Any revenue realized through such a match shall be paid to the nursing homes which
31 incurred the unreimbursed expense.

32 25 Department of Health and Human Services; Prospective Repeal Regarding the Exemption
33 from Certain Transfer Procedures Extended. Amend 2018, 163:11, IV, as amended by 2019, 346:64
34 to read as follows:

35 IV. Section 10 of this act shall take effect [~~June 30, 2021~~] **June 30, 2023.**

36 26 Effective Date. Section 25 shall take effect June 30, 2021.

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1 27 The New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Trust Fund. Amend RSA 126-AA:3,
2 I(e)-(g) to read as follows:

3 (e) Funds received from the assessment under RSA 404-G; ~~and~~

4 (f) *Revenue from the Medicaid enhancement tax to meet the requirements*
5 *provided in RSA 167:64; and*

6 (g) Funds recovered or returnable to the fund that were originally spent on the cost of
7 coverage of the granite advantage health care program.

8 28 New Subparagraph; Emergency Services for Children, Youth and Families Fund. Amend
9 RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (364) the following new subparagraph:

10 (365) Moneys deposited in the emergency services for children, youth and families
11 fund established in RSA 170-G:4-h.

12 29 New Section; Department of Health and Human Services; Establishing the Emergency
13 Services for Children, Youth, and Families Fund. Amend RSA 170-G by inserting after section 4-g
14 the following new section:

15 170-G:4-h Establishing the Emergency Services for Children, Youth, and Families Fund. There
16 is hereby established in the state treasury the emergency services for children, youth, and families
17 fund. The funds shall be used by the department to meet the immediate needs of children and
18 families as required to ensure the department is making reasonable efforts to avoid the removal of
19 children and support reunification. The use of these funds shall be limited to instances when there
20 are no other supports or services available to meet the immediate need in a timely manner. The
21 funds may be comprised of public funds, gifts, grants or donations or any other source of funds. The
22 fund shall be non-lapsing and shall be continually appropriated to the department for purposes
23 funding emergency services administered by the department, or its providers, under RSA 169-B,
24 RSA 169-C, RSA 169-D or under this chapter.

25 30 Parental Reimbursement; Child Services. Amend 2020, 26:57, II-III to read as follows:

26 II. Sections ~~12-29~~, 30, 32, 33, 35, 44, 51-53 and 55 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

27 III. Sections 1-8, [~~12-29,~~] and RSA 169-C:12-f, III as inserted by section 54 of this act of shall
28 take effect January 1, 2021.

29 31 New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; Elimination of Parental
30 Reimbursement. The department of health and human services shall be authorized to motion the
31 court to terminate any court orders for parental reimbursement either for on-going repayment or
32 arrears pursuant to implementation of 2020, 26:12 through 2020, 26:29 in existence as of the
33 effective date of any court order rendered pursuant to this act.

34 32 Department of Health and Human Services; Program Eligibility; Additional Revenues. For
35 the biennium ending June 30, 2023, the department of health and human services shall not
36 authorize, without prior consultation with the house health, human services and elderly affairs
37 committee and the senate health and human services committee and the approval of the fiscal

1 committee of the general court and governor and council, any change to program eligibility
2 standards or benefit levels that might be expected to increase or decrease enrollment in the program
3 or increase expenditures from any source of funds; provided, however, that no such prior approval
4 shall be required if a change to a federal program in which the state is participating as of the
5 effective date of this section is required by federal law.

6 33 Department of Health and Human Services; Change in Federal Match Revenue. During the
7 biennium ending June 30, 2023 any item submitted to the fiscal committee of the general court
8 which increases a draw on federal funds, as a result of miscalculation of or change in the state's
9 share of a federal match program in excess of \$100,000 in an accounting unit, shall include an
10 explanation stating if any general funds have been supplanted, and if so, for what purpose those
11 supplanted general funds will be used, and the amount of supplanted general funds anticipated to
12 lapse.

13 34 Reproductive Health Facilities. No state funds shall be awarded by the department of health
14 and human services to a reproductive health care facility, as defined in RSA 132:37, I, except the
15 funding available from the state pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act to the minimum
16 extent necessary to comply with federal conditions for the state's participation in the Medicaid
17 program. In order to ensure that public funds are not used to subsidize abortions directly or
18 indirectly, no funds, grants, or contracts shall be awarded for a family planning project, including
19 but not limited to funding under budget line 902010-5530, unless the state funded family planning
20 program project is physically and financially separate from a reproductive health facility as defined
21 in RSA 132:37, I and no family planning grantee shall enter into any contract with a reproductive
22 health facility.

23 35 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services. There is hereby appropriated to
24 the department of health and human services the sum of \$3,300,000, for the biennium ending June
25 30, 2023, for the purpose of implementing certain recommendations, from a financial review
26 conducted by Alvarez & Marsal, to streamline certain agency operations resulting in greater
27 efficiencies and accountability, and involving certain transformation projects over a 4-year period.
28 Additionally, the department may accept and expend any applicable federal funds, and any gifts,
29 grants, or donations that may be available for the purposes of this section. This appropriation shall
30 not lapse until June 30, 2023. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any
31 money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

32 36 Health and Human Services; Suspension of Catastrophic Aid Payment to Hospitals. The
33 commissioner of the department of health and human services shall submit a Title XIX Medicaid
34 state plan amendment to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to suspend all
35 catastrophic aid payments to hospitals effective for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

1 37 New Section; Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services; Support for Veterans
2 Mental Health and Social Isolation. Amend RSA 110-B by inserting after section 73-c the following
3 new section:

4 110-B:73-d Support for Veterans Mental Health and Social Isolation. The department of
5 military affairs and veterans services shall coordinate access to mental health programs available
6 through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), including but not limited to the VA
7 Solid Start program, which contacts every veteran multiple times by phone in the first year after
8 they leave active duty to check in and help connect them to VA programs and benefits, the Buddy
9 Check program through which veterans reach out to each other to provide peer support, and the
10 proposed Green Alert Act, which will help to locate veterans when they go missing so they can
11 receive appropriate care, in a manner similar to the Silver Alert system for older Americans and the
12 Amber Alert system for children. The department will help veterans to find and enroll in the variety
13 of mental health programs offered by the VA.

14 38 New Subdivision; Controlled Drug Prescription Health and Safety Program. Amend RSA
15 126-A by inserting after section 88 the following new subdivision:

16 Controlled Drug Prescription Health and Safety Program

17 126-A:89 Definitions. In this subdivision:

18 I.(a) "Chronic pain" means a state in which pain persists beyond the usual course of an acute
19 disease or healing of an injury, or that might or might not be associated with an acute or chronic
20 pathologic process that causes continuous or intermittent pain over months or years. It also includes
21 intermittent episodic pain that might require periodic treatment.

22 (1) For the purpose of this subdivision, chronic pain does not cover or in any way
23 determine treatment for pain from terminal disease.

24 (2) For the purpose of this subdivision, chronic pain includes but may not be limited
25 to pain defined as "chronic," "intractable," "high impact," "chronic episodic," and "chronic relapsing."

26 (b) A diagnosis of chronic pain made by a practitioner licensed in any of the states in the
27 United States or the District of Columbia and supported by written documentation of the diagnosis
28 by the treating practitioner shall constitute proof that the patient suffers from chronic pain.

29 II. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of health and human
30 services.

31 III. "Controlled substance" means controlled drugs as defined in RSA 318-B:1, VI.

32 IV. "Department" means the department of health and human services, established in RSA
33 126-A:4.

34 V. "Dispense" means to deliver a controlled substance by lawful means and includes the
35 packaging, labeling, or compounding necessary to prepare the substance for such delivery.

36 VI. "Dispenser" means a person or entity who is lawfully authorized to deliver a schedule II-
37 IV controlled substance, but does not include:

1 (a) A licensed hospital pharmacy that dispenses less than a 48-hour supply of a schedule
2 II-IV controlled substance from a hospital emergency department or that dispenses for
3 administration in the hospital;

4 (b) A practitioner, or other authorized person who administers such a substance;

5 (c) A wholesale distributor of a schedule II-IV controlled substance or its analog;

6 (d) A prescriber who dispenses less than a 48-hour supply of a schedule II-IV controlled
7 substance from a hospital emergency department to a patient; or

8 (e) A veterinarian who dispenses less than a 48-hour supply of a schedule II-IV
9 controlled substance to a patient.

10 VII. "Patient" means the person or animal who is the ultimate user of a controlled substance
11 for whom a lawful prescription is issued and for whom a controlled substance or other such drug is
12 lawfully dispensed.

13 VIII. "Practitioner" means a physician, dentist, podiatrist, veterinarian, pharmacist, APRN,
14 physician assistant, naturopath, or other person licensed or otherwise permitted to prescribe,
15 dispense, or administer a controlled substance in the course of licensed professional practice.
16 "Practitioner" shall also include practitioners with a federal license to prescribe or administer a
17 controlled substance.

18 IX. "Prescribe" means to issue a direction or authorization, by prescription, permitting a
19 patient to lawfully obtain controlled substances.

20 X. "Prescriber" means a practitioner or other authorized person who prescribes a schedule
21 II, III, or IV controlled substance.

22 XI. "Program" means the controlled drug prescription health and safety program that
23 electronically facilitates the confidential sharing of information relating to the prescribing and
24 dispensing of controlled substances listed in schedules II-IV, established by the department
25 pursuant to RSA 126-A:90.

26 126-A:90 Controlled Drug Prescription Health and Safety Program Established.

27 I. The department shall design, establish, and contract with a third party for the
28 implementation and operation of an electronic system to facilitate the confidential sharing of
29 information relating to the prescribing and dispensing of schedule II-IV controlled substances, by
30 prescribers and dispensers within the state.

31 II. The department may establish fees for the establishment, administration, operations and
32 maintenance of the program. The program may also be supported through grants and gifts. The fee
33 charged to individuals requesting their own prescription information shall not exceed the actual cost
34 of providing that information.

35 III. Prescription information held by the program relating to any individual shall be deleted
36 3 years after the initial prescription was dispensed. All de-identified data may be kept for statistical
37 and analytical purposes in perpetuity.

1 IV. The commissioner shall establish an advisory council, as provided in RSA 126-A:96.
2 126-A:91 Controlled Drug Prescription Health and Safety Program Operation.

3 I. The department shall develop a system of registration for all prescribers and dispensers of
4 schedule II-IV controlled substances within the state. The system of registration shall be
5 established by rules adopted by the department, pursuant to RSA 541-A.

6 II. All prescribers and dispensers authorized to prescribe or dispense schedule II-IV
7 controlled substances within the state shall be required to register with the program as follows:

8 (a) Practitioners who prescribe but do not dispense schedule II-IV controlled substances
9 shall register with the program as a prescriber;

10 (b) Practitioners who dispense but do not prescribe schedule II-IV controlled substances
11 shall register with the program as a dispenser unless exempted pursuant to RSA 126-A:89, VI; and

12 (c) Practitioners who prescribe and dispense schedule II-IV controlled substances shall
13 register with the program as both a prescriber and a dispenser unless exempted pursuant to RSA
14 126-A:89, VI.

15 III. Only registered prescribers, dispensers, or their designees, and federal health
16 prescribers and dispensers working in federal facilities located in New Hampshire, Massachusetts,
17 Maine, and Vermont shall be eligible to access the program.

18 IV. The chief medical examiner and delegates may register and access the program.

19 V. Each dispenser shall submit to the program the information regarding each dispensing of
20 a schedule II-IV controlled substance. Any dispenser located outside the boundaries of the state of
21 New Hampshire and who is licensed and registered by the pharmacy board, established in RSA
22 318:2, shall submit information regarding each prescription dispensed to a patient who resides
23 within New Hampshire.

24 VI. Each dispenser required to report under paragraph V of this section shall submit to the
25 program by electronic means information for each dispensing that shall include, but not be limited
26 to:

27 (a) Dispenser's Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration number.

28 (b) Prescriber's DEA registration number.

29 (c) Date of dispensing.

30 (d) Prescription number.

31 (e) Number of refills granted.

32 (f) National Drug Code (NDC) of drug dispensed.

33 (g) Quantity dispensed.

34 (h) Number of days supply of drug.

35 (i) Patient's name.

36 (j) Patient's address.

37 (k) Patient's date of birth.

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1 (l) Patient's telephone number, if available.

2 (m) Date prescription was written by prescriber.

3 (n) Whether the prescription is new or a refill.

4 (o) Source of payment for prescription.

5 VII.(a) Except as provided in subparagraphs (b) and (c), each dispenser shall submit the
6 required information in accordance with transmission methods daily by the close of business on the
7 next business day from the date the prescription was dispensed.

8 (b) Veterinarians shall submit the information required under subparagraph (a) no more
9 than 7 days from the date the prescription was dispensed.

10 (c) Dispensers who have a federal Drug Enforcement Administration license, but who do
11 not dispense controlled substances may request a waiver from the requirements of subparagraph (a)
12 from the department in consultation with the pharmacy board.

13 VIII. The program administrator may issue a waiver to a dispenser that is unable to submit
14 prescription information by electronic means. Such waiver may permit the dispenser to submit
15 prescription information by paper form or other means, provided all information required by
16 paragraph VI is submitted in this alternative format and within the established time limit.

17 IX. The program administrator may grant a reasonable extension to a dispenser that is
18 unable, for good cause, to submit all the information required by paragraph V within the established
19 time limits.

20 X. Any dispenser who in good faith reports to the program as required by paragraphs V and
21 VI shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability as the result of such good faith reporting.

22 126-A:92 Confidentiality.

23 I. Information contained in the program, information obtained from it, and information
24 contained in the records of requests for information from the program, is confidential, is not a public
25 record or otherwise subject to disclosure under RSA 91-A, and is not subject to discovery, subpoena,
26 or other means of legal compulsion for release and shall not be shared with an agency or institution,
27 except as provided in this subdivision. This paragraph shall not prevent a practitioner from using or
28 disclosing program information about a patient to others who are authorized by state or federal law
29 or regulations to receive program information.

30 II. The department shall establish and maintain procedures to ensure the privacy and
31 confidentiality of patients and patient information.

32 III. The department may use and release information and reports from the program for
33 program analysis and evaluation, statistical analysis, public research, public policy, and educational
34 purposes, provided that the data are aggregated or otherwise de-identified.

35 126-A:93 Providing Controlled Drug Prescription Health and Safety Information.

36 I. The program administrator may provide information in the prescription health and safety
37 program upon request only to the following persons:

1 (a) By electronic or written request to prescribers, dispensers, and the chief medical
2 examiner and delegates within the state who are registered with the program:

- 3 (1) For the purpose of providing medical or pharmaceutical care to a specific patient;
4 (2) For reviewing information regarding prescriptions issued or dispensed by the
5 requester; or
6 (3) For the purpose of investigating the death of an individual.

7 (b) By written request, to:

- 8 (1) A patient who requests his or her own prescription monitoring information.
9 (2) The board of dentistry, the board of medicine, the board of nursing, the board of
10 registration in optometry, the board of podiatry, the board of veterinary medicine, and the pharmacy
11 board; provided, however, that the request is pursuant to the boards' official duties and
12 responsibilities and the disclosures to each board relate only to its licensees and only with respect to
13 those licensees whose prescribing or dispensing activities indicate possible fraudulent conduct.

14 (3) Authorized law enforcement officials on a case-by-case basis for the purpose of
15 investigation and prosecution of a criminal offense when presented with a court order based on
16 probable cause. No law enforcement agency or official shall have direct access to query program
17 information.

18 (4) A practitioner or consultant retained by the department to review the system
19 information of an impaired practitioner program participant or a referral who has agreed to be
20 evaluated or monitored through the program and who has separately agreed in writing to the
21 consultant's access to and review of such information.

22 (c) By electronic or written request on a case-by-case basis to:

23 (1) A controlled prescription drug health and safety program from another state;
24 provided, that there is an agreement in place with the other state to ensure that the information is
25 used or disseminated pursuant to the requirements of this state.

26 (2) An entity that operates a secure interstate prescription drug data exchange
27 system for the purpose of interoperability and the mutual secure exchange of information among
28 prescription drug monitoring programs, provided that there is an agreement in place with the entity
29 to ensure that the information is used or disseminated pursuant to the requirements of this state.

30 II. The program administrator shall notify the appropriate regulatory board listed in
31 subparagraph I(b)(2) and the prescriber or dispenser at such regular intervals as may be established
32 by the department if there is reasonable cause to believe a violation of law or breach of professional
33 standards may have occurred. The program administrator shall provide prescription information
34 required or necessary for an investigation.

35 III. The program administrator shall review the information to identify information that
36 appears to indicate whether a person may be obtaining prescriptions in a manner that may

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1 represent misuse or abuse of schedule II-IV controlled substances. When such information is
2 identified, the program administrator shall notify the practitioner who prescribed the prescription.

3 IV. The program administrator shall make a report, at least annually, commencing on
4 November 1, 2021, to the senate president, the speaker of the house of representatives, the oversight
5 committee on health and human services, established in RSA 126-A:13, the advisory council
6 established in RSA 126-A:96 and the licensing boards of all professions required to use the program
7 relative to the effectiveness of the program.

8 126-A:94 Unlawful Act and Penalties.

9 I. Any dispenser or prescriber who fails to submit the information required in RSA 126-A:91
10 or knowingly submits incorrect information shall be subject to a warning letter and provided with an
11 opportunity to correct the failure. Any dispenser or prescriber who subsequently fails to correct or
12 fails to resubmit the information may be subject to discipline by the appropriate regulatory board.

13 II. Any dispenser or prescriber whose failure to report the dispensing of a schedule II-IV
14 controlled substance that conceals a pattern of diversion of controlled substances into illegal use
15 shall be guilty of a violation and subject to the penalties established under RSA 318-B:26 and the
16 department's and appropriate regulatory board's rules as applicable. In addition, such dispenser or
17 prescriber may be subject to appropriate criminal charges if the failure to report is determined to
18 have been done knowingly to conceal criminal activity.

19 III. Any person who engages in prescribing or dispensing of controlled substances in
20 schedule II-IV without having registered with the program may be subject to discipline by the
21 appropriate regulatory board.

22 IV. Any person authorized to receive program information who knowingly discloses such
23 information in violation of this subdivision shall be subject to discipline by the appropriate
24 regulatory board and to all other relevant penalties under state and federal law.

25 V. Any person authorized to receive program information who uses such information for a
26 purpose in violation of this subdivision shall be subject to disciplinary action by the appropriate
27 regulatory board and to all other relevant penalties under state and federal law.

28 VI. Unauthorized use or disclosure of program information shall be grounds for disciplinary
29 action by the relevant regulatory board.

30 VII. Any person who knowingly accesses, alters, destroys, or discloses program information
31 except as authorized in this subdivision or attempts to obtain such information by fraud, deceit,
32 misrepresentation, or subterfuge shall be guilty of a class B felony.

33 126-A:95 Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, necessary to
34 implement and maintain the program including:

35 I. The criteria for registration by dispensers and prescribers.

36 II. The criteria for a waiver pursuant to RSA 126-A:91, VIII for dispensers with limited
37 electronic access to the program.

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1 III. The criteria for reviewing the prescribing and dispensing information collected by the
2 program.

3 IV. The criteria for reporting matters to the applicable health care regulatory board for
4 further investigation.

5 V. The criteria for notifying practitioners of individuals that are engaged in obtaining
6 controlled substances from multiple practitioners or dispensers.

7 VI. Content and format of all forms required under this subdivision.

8 126-A:96 Advisory Council Established.

9 I. There is hereby established an advisory council to carry out the duties under this
10 subdivision. Members of the council shall not be compensated for serving on the council, or serve on
11 the council for more than one 5-year term except for the attorney general, or designee, or the
12 commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee. The members of the
13 council shall be as follows:

14 (a) A member of the board of medicine, appointed by such board.

15 (b) A member of the pharmacy board, appointed by such board.

16 (c) A member of the board of dental examiners, appointed by such board.

17 (d) A member of the New Hampshire board of nursing, appointed by such board.

18 (e) A member of the board of veterinary medicine, appointed by such board.

19 (f) A physician appointed by the New Hampshire Medical Society.

20 (g) A dentist appointed by the New Hampshire Dental Society.

21 (h) A chief of police appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police.

22 (i) A community pharmacist appointed jointly by the New Hampshire Pharmacists
23 Association, the New Hampshire Independent Pharmacy Association, and the New Hampshire
24 Association of Chain Drug Stores.

25 (j) Two public members appointed by the governor's commission on alcohol and drug
26 abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery, one of whom may be a member of the commission.

27 (k) A hospital administrator appointed by the New Hampshire Hospital Association.

28 (l) A nurse practitioner appointed by the New Hampshire Nurse Practitioner
29 Association.

30 (m) A veterinarian appointed by the New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association.

31 (n) The attorney general, or designee.

32 (o) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.

33 (p) A member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

34 (q) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
35 of representatives.

36 II. The council shall:

1 (a) Make recommendations to the department relating to the design, implementation,
2 and maintenance of the program, including recommendations relating to:

3 (1) Rules.

4 (2) Legislation.

5 (3) Sources of funding, including grant funds and other sources of federal, private, or
6 state funds;

7 (b) Review the program's annual report and make recommendations to the department
8 regarding the operation of the program.

9 (c) Provide ongoing advice and consultation on the implementation and operation of the
10 program, including recommendations relating to:

11 (1) Changes in the program to reflect advances in technology and best practices.

12 (2) Changes to statutory requirements.

13 (3) The design and implementation of an ongoing evaluation component of the
14 program.

15 (d) Advise the executive director regarding the implementation of this subdivision.

16 (e) Adopt rules necessary for the operation of the council.

17 (f) Develop a mission statement for the program and strategic goals for its
18 implementation, develop metrics in conjunction with the legislative budget assistant to measure the
19 program's efficient operation, review the performance of the program against the metrics, and make
20 recommendations to the program and ensure they are incorporated.

21 III. The council shall meet at least quarterly to effectuate its goals. A chairperson shall be
22 elected by the members. A majority of the members of the council constitutes a quorum for the
23 transaction of business. Action by the council shall require the approval of a majority of the
24 members of the council.

25 IV. Members of the defunct advisory council, previously established in RSA 318-B:38, shall
26 be appointed as members of the advisory council established under this section to the extent
27 possible.

28 126-A:97 Competency Requirements. Except for veterinarians who shall complete continuing
29 education requirements in accordance with RSA 332-B:7-a, XV, all prescribers required to register
30 with the program who possess a United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) license
31 number shall complete 3 contact hours of free appropriate prescriber's regulatory board-approved
32 online continuing education or pass an online examination, in the area of pain management and
33 addiction disorder or a combination, as a condition for initial licensure and license renewal.
34 Verification of successful completion of the examination or of the required continuing education shall
35 be submitted to the prescriber's regulatory board with the licensee's application for initial licensure
36 or renewal. A list of the prescriber's regulatory boards' approved continuing education courses and

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1 online examinations in pain management and addiction disorder, shall be available on the
2 department of health and human service's Internet website.

3 39 Repeal. OPLC; Controlled Drug Prescription Health and Safety Program. RSA 318-B:31-
4 38, relative to the controlled drug prescription health and safety program, are repealed.

5 40 Reference Corrected. Veterinary Board. Amend RSA 332-B:3, I (b) to read as follows:

6 (b) Representing the board on the advisory council established in RSA ~~[318-B:38]~~ **126-**
7 **A:96;**

8 41 Revenue Sharing; Suspension. RSA 31-A, relative to revenue sharing with cities and towns
9 shall be suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

10 42 Liquor Commission; Processing of Merchant Cards. For the biennium ending June 30, 2023,
11 the liquor commission, for purposes of supporting merchant card activity, may:

12 I. Implement necessary business strategies in the event of a disaster or loss of services to
13 insure the continuity of the commission's business operations, including the processing of merchant
14 cards, which includes the ability to transfer funds from accounting unit 01-03-03-030010-7677 in
15 consultation with the commissioner of the department of information technology. The commissioner
16 shall report to the fiscal committee of the general court within 30 days any instances where it would
17 need to implement such business strategies, including any costs and loss of revenue associated with
18 the disaster or loss of services and the implementation of such business strategies.

19 II. Enter into contracts for technical and hosting services to support retail operations and
20 merchant card processing. The commission shall comply with RSA 176:18 for any contracts entered
21 into to support retail operations and merchant card processing.

22 III. Hire information technology technical support personnel to support its merchant card
23 activity and related technical support operations in retail stores.

24 43 Department of Education; Acceptance of Gifts. For the biennium ending June 30, 2023, the
25 department of education may, subject to the approval of the governor and council, accept gifts,
26 contributions, and bequests of unrestricted funds from individuals, foundations, corporations, and
27 other organizations or institutions for the purpose of funding appropriations for New Hampshire
28 scholars made in accounting unit 06-56-56-562010-7534.

29 44 Certain Differential Aid Calculations; Fiscal Year 2022.

30 I. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the department of education shall divide each
31 pupil in the ADMA who is eligible for a free or reduced price meal by the average daily member in
32 attendance (ADMA), defined in RSA 198:38, for each district and town for school year 2019-2020.
33 The percentage shall be applied to the ADMA for school year 2020-2021 to establish a new
34 calculation of ADMA for who is eligible for a free or reduced price meal. The greater of the ADMA of
35 pupils who are eligible for a free or reduced price meal for school year 2020-2021 and the new
36 calculation based on the previous year's percentage shall be used to calculate the differential aid
37 under RSA 198:40-a, II(b).

1 II. When determining ADMA for third grade pupils scoring below proficiency on the reading
2 component of the state assessment as required by RSA 198:40-a, II(e) for the fiscal year ending June
3 30, 2022, the commissioner of the department of education shall compare the ADMA for this
4 category of differentiated aid in school year 2018-2019 and school year 2020-2021. The greater
5 ADMA shall be used to calculate the cost of an opportunity for an adequate education under RSA
6 198:40-a, II(e) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

7 45 Conditional Differential Aid Calculation For Pupils Eligible for a Free or Reduced Price Meal;
8 Fiscal Year 2023.

9 I. If, as of any of the dates set forth in RSA 198:41, V, VI, or VII, either (a) the state of New
10 Hampshire is in a declared state of emergency pursuant to RSA 4:45 as it relates to the COVID-19
11 pandemic or (b) the U.S. Department of Agriculture has not rescinded the Child Nutrition Covid-19
12 Waivers enacted in response to the pandemic, or both, then the department of education shall, in
13 consultation with the governor, determine whether the alternative differential aid calculation set
14 forth in paragraph II is required for fiscal year 2023 when making the required estimate or final
15 determination described in RSA 198:41, V, VI, or VII as applicable.

16 II. Upon making a determination that the alternative differential aid calculation applies
17 pursuant to paragraph I, the department of education shall divide each pupil in the ADMA who is
18 eligible for a free or reduced price meal by the average daily member in attendance (ADMA), defined
19 in RSA 198:38, for each district and town for school year 2019-2020. The percentage shall be applied
20 to the ADMA for school year 2021-2022 to establish a new calculation of ADMA for who is eligible for
21 a free or reduced price meal. The greater of the ADMA of pupils who are eligible for a free or
22 reduced price meal for school year 2021-2022 and the new calculation based on the 2019-2020 school
23 year percentage shall be used to calculate the differential aid under RSA 198:40-a, II(b).

24 46 Education Trust Fund Created and Invested. Amend RSA 198:39, I to read as follows:

25 I. The state treasurer shall establish an education trust fund in the treasury. Moneys in
26 such fund shall not be used for any purpose other than to distribute adequate education grants to
27 municipalities' school districts and to approved charter schools pursuant to RSA 198:42, to provide
28 low and moderate income homeowners property tax relief under RSA 198:56-198:61, ***to distribute***
29 ***school building aid to school districts and approved chartered public schools pursuant to***
30 ***RSA 198:15-b, to distribute tuition and transportation funds to school districts for students***
31 ***attending career and technical education programs pursuant to RSA 188-E:9, to distribute***
32 ***special education aid to school districts pursuant to RSA 186-C:18***, and to fund kindergarten
33 programs as may be determined by the general court. The state treasurer shall deposit into this
34 fund immediately upon receipt:

35 (a) Funds certified to the state treasurer by the commissioner of revenue administration
36 pursuant to RSA 77-A:20-a, relative to business profits taxes.

37 (b) Funds certified to the state treasurer by the commissioner of revenue administration

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1 pursuant to RSA 77-E:14, relative to business enterprise tax.

2 (c) Funds collected and paid over to the state treasurer by the commissioner of revenue
3 administration pursuant to RSA 78-A:26, III relative to the tax on motor vehicle rentals.

4 (d) Funds collected and paid over to the state treasurer by the department of revenue
5 administration pursuant to RSA 78:24, relative to tobacco taxes.

6 (e) Funds certified to the state treasurer by the commissioner of revenue administration
7 pursuant to RSA 78-B:13, relative to real estate transfer taxes.

8 (f) Funds collected and paid over to the state treasurer by the department of revenue
9 administration pursuant to RSA 83-F:7, I, relative to the utility property tax.

10 (g) [Repealed.]

11 (h) All moneys due the fund in accordance with RSA 284:21-j, relative to sweepstakes
12 and the lottery.

13 (i) Tobacco settlement funds in the amount of \$40,000,000 [~~annually~~] or, **for any year**
14 **in which the total tobacco settlement funds received by the state is less than \$40,000,000,**
15 **the total amount of tobacco settlement funds received by the state.**

16 (j) The school portion of any revenue sharing funds distributed pursuant to RSA 31-A:4
17 which were apportioned to school districts in the property tax rate calculations in 1998.

18 (k) Funds collected and paid over to the state treasurer by the lottery commission
19 pursuant to RSA 284:44, RSA 284:47, and RSA 287-I.

20 (l) Any other moneys appropriated from the general fund.

21 47 Transfer; Education Trust Fund. The comptroller shall transfer the following amounts from
22 the education trust fund to the public school infrastructure fund established in RSA 198:15-y:
23 \$1,000,000 on July 1, 2021 and \$1,000,000 on July 1, 2022.

24 48 Public School Infrastructure Fund. Amend RSA 198:15-y to read as follows:

25 198:15-y Public School Infrastructure Fund.

26 I. The general court recognizes that there is a need to provide funding for infrastructure
27 projects for public elementary and secondary schools. Therefore, it is the intent of this chapter to
28 designate certain surplus funds in the 2016-2017 biennial budget to provide grants to fund select
29 school infrastructure projects in accordance with this chapter.

30 II. There is hereby established in the office of the state treasurer the public school
31 infrastructure fund which shall be kept distinct and separate from all other funds and which shall be
32 administered by the department of education. After transferring sufficient funds to the revenue
33 stabilization reserve account to bring the balance of that account to \$100,000,000, the state treasurer
34 shall transfer the remainder of the general fund surplus for fiscal year 2017, as determined by the
35 official audit performed pursuant to RSA 21-I:8, II(a), to the fund. Any earnings on fund moneys
36 shall be added to the fund. All moneys in the fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated.
37 The department of education may retain up to 3 percent of the total annual appropriation of the

1 public school infrastructure fund on or after July 1, 2019, to be used to administer the public school
2 infrastructure program. [~~Any unexpended or unencumbered balance as of June 30, 2021 shall be~~
3 ~~transferred to the general fund.~~]

4 III. The governor, in consultation with the public school infrastructure commission, may
5 authorize fund expenditures with approval of the fiscal committee of the general court and the
6 executive council. Funds may be expended for the following purposes:

7 (a) A school building or infrastructure proposal in which the condition of such school
8 building or portion thereof constitutes a clear and imminent danger to the life or safety of occupants
9 or other persons and requires remediation as soon as practicable.

10 (b) A school building or infrastructure proposal in which a structural deficiency in the
11 function or operation of a school building or portion thereof presents a substantial risk to the life or
12 safety of the occupants or other persons and is more than a technical violation of the fire code, and
13 requires remediation as soon as practicable.

14 (c) Support of fiber optic connections for schools to enhance and improve reliance on
15 Internet technology tools, provided matching funds are available.

16 (d) Funding for the department of safety, division of homeland security and emergency
17 management's school emergency readiness program to improve security in public schools, after the
18 completion of a security assessment, and in consultation with municipal officials.

19 (e) A school building or infrastructure proposal which is necessary to comply with
20 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations.

21 (f) *Energy efficient school buses or other vehicles used for transportation of*
22 *students.*

23 (g) Other school building or infrastructure needs the governor, in consultation with the
24 public school infrastructure commission, may identify, except for school building aid projects that are
25 otherwise prohibited by law.

26 *IV. In order for a school to be eligible for a grant from the public school*
27 *infrastructure fund, the public school infrastructure commission in consultation with the*
28 *department of education shall determine that the school has a need unmet by federal*
29 *stimulus funds for the project.*

30 49 Repeal. 2017, 156:72, relative to the prospective repeal of the public school infrastructure
31 fund and commission, is repealed.

32 50 Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food; Integrated Pest Management Program.
33 Amend RSA 430:50, II to read as follows:

34 II. There is established a nonlapsing fund to be known as the integrated pest management
35 fund. Twenty-five percent of the pesticide registration fees collected under RSA 430:38, III shall be
36 deposited in the fund. The fund shall only be used to support the purposes of the integrated pest
37 management program *and the division of pesticide control.* The state treasurer may invest

1 moneys in the fund as provided by law and all interest received on such investment shall be credited
2 to the fund. The commissioner shall be authorized to accept grants, gifts, and donations from any
3 public or private sources for deposit in the fund.

4 51 Department of Business and Economic Affairs; New Hampshire Economic Development
5 Fund. Amend RSA 12-O:21 to read as follows:

6 12-O:21 New Hampshire Economic Development Fund.

7 I. There is hereby established the New Hampshire economic development fund which shall
8 be administered by the commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs. Said fund
9 shall be for the purpose of providing funds for grants, loans and other economic development
10 initiatives which shall be generally considered to be beneficial to the state's overall economy as
11 provided for in paragraph II.

12 II. Said fund shall be distributed or expended by the commissioner with prior approval of
13 the fiscal committee of general court and the governor and council for any of the following purposes:

14 (a) Business financing and expansion initiatives.

15 (b) [~~Job~~] **Workforce recruitment** retention and creation.

16 (c) International trade.

17 (d) Research and development activities.

18 (e) Other projects or programs recognized as being beneficial to business activity in New
19 Hampshire.

20 III. To maximize the economic impact of expenditures from this fund, and to leverage
21 additional funding from other sources, the commissioner may contract with such organizations as,
22 but not limited to, the following:

23 (a) [~~New Hampshire Business Development Corporation~~] **Chambers of commerce.**

24 (b) [~~Small Business Investment Corporation~~] **Regional economic development or
25 planning organizations.**

26 (c) Innovation Research Center.

27 (d) Small Business Development Center.

28 IV. All moneys **appropriated to the fund as well as moneys** returned to the department
29 as a result of contracts between the commissioner and any other party as authorized shall be
30 redeposited into the New Hampshire economic development fund. In addition, the department may
31 accept gifts, grants, donations or other moneys for the purposes of this section. Said moneys shall be
32 deposited into the New Hampshire economic development fund.

33 52 New Section; Department of Business and Economic Affairs; Director of Intergovernmental
34 Affairs. Amend RSA 12-O by inserting after section 5 the following new section:

35 12-O:5-a Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

36 I. There is established in the office of the commissioner the unclassified position of director
37 of intergovernmental affairs. The director shall be qualified to hold that position by reason of

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1 education and experience and shall perform such duties as the commissioner from time to time may
2 authorize.

3 II. The commissioner shall nominate for appointment by the governor, with the consent of
4 the council, this unclassified director of intergovernmental affairs who shall serve for a term of 4
5 years.

6 III. The salary of the director of intergovernmental affairs shall be determined after
7 assessment and review of the appropriate temporary letter grade allocation in RSA 94:1-a, I(b) for
8 the position which shall be conducted pursuant to RSA 94:1-d and RSA 14:14-c.

9 IV. Upon completion of the appointment of the first director of intergovernmental affairs,
10 position number 40049 shall be abolished to allow for the transition of this classified position with
11 its available appropriations into the unclassified position of director of intergovernmental affairs.
12 Funding shall be transferred into a new expenditure class number 11 within accounting unit 03-22-
13 22-220010-2007.

14 53 Effective Date. Section 52 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2023.

15 54 Repeal. RSA 12-O:11-a, relative to the bureau of film and digital media, is repealed.

16 55 Reference Deleted. Department of Business and Economic Affairs. Amend RSA 12-O:2, I
17 to read as follows:

18 I. There shall be a department of business and economic affairs under the executive
19 direction of a commissioner of business and economic affairs, consisting of a division of economic
20 development which shall include but not be limited to a bureau of workforce development, and a
21 division of travel and tourism development which shall include but not be limited to a bureau of
22 visitor service [~~and a bureau of film and digital media~~]. The department's purpose shall be to ensure
23 the efficient coordinated function of the department, economic development policies of the state of
24 New Hampshire and the collaborative participation of all related state departments, agencies, and
25 authorities.

26 56 Distribution of Meals and Rooms Tax; Division of Travel and Tourism Development. The
27 provisions of RSA 12-O:11-b, crediting a portion of meals and rooms tax revenue to the division of
28 travel and tourism development, are hereby suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

29 57 Department of Corrections; Transfer Authority. The following classes within the department
30 of corrections shall be exempt from the transfer restrictions in RSA 9:17-a, 9:17-c, classes 10-
31 personal services-perm classified, 11-personal services unclassified, 12-personal services-
32 unclassified, 18-overtime, 19-holiday pay, 50-personal service-temp/appointed and 60-benefits. The
33 department is authorized to transfer funding in these classes within and amongst all accounting
34 units provided that any transfer of \$100,000 or more shall require prior approval of the fiscal
35 committee of the general court and governor and council. The provisions in this paragraph shall
36 remain in effect for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

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1 58 New Section; Department of Corrections; Officials; Status in Retirement System. Amend
2 RSA 21-H by inserting after section 8-a the following new section:

3 21-H:8-b Status in Retirement System.

4 I. For purposes of classification under RSA 100-A, any person who is or become the assistant
5 commissioner, the director or deputy director of professional standards, or the director or deputy
6 director of community corrections, such person shall be included in the definition of correctional line
7 personnel, as defined in RSA 100-A:1, VII under the retirement system, if such person was a group
8 II member for at least 15 years prior to appointment in his or her position and shall remain in group
9 II status for the duration of service in that position with the department.

10 II. For purposes of classification under RSA 100-A, any person who is or becomes the
11 director of security and training, the director or deputy director of field services, or the director or
12 deputy director of medical and psychiatric services, such person shall be included in the definition of
13 correctional line personnel, as defined in RSA 100-A:1, VII under the retirement system, if such
14 person was a group II member for at least 10 years prior to appointment in his or her position and
15 shall remain in group II status for the duration of service in that position with the department.

16 59 Equipment Purchases. Amend RSA 622:28-a,V to read as follows:

17 V. All purchases of materials, supplies, and equipment into the inventory account shall be
18 made in accordance with the provisions of RSA 21-I:11 and any equipment purchase in excess of
19 ~~[\$5,000]~~ ***the approval threshold for contracts set by the governor and council manual of***
20 ***procedures***, and made under the provisions of this section, shall require the prior approval of both
21 the fiscal committee of the general court and the governor and council.

22 60 Department of Environmental Services; Appropriation Extended. Amend 2020, 346:304, I to
23 read as follows:

24 I. The sum of \$6,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is hereby appropriated to
25 the department of environmental services for the purpose of studying, investigating, and testing for
26 contamination caused by perfluorinated chemicals, and the preliminary design for a treatment
27 system for such contamination. This appropriation shall not lapse until June 30, ~~[2021]~~ **2023**. Such
28 appropriation shall be a charge against the drinking water and groundwater trust fund established
29 in RSA 6-D:1.

30 61 Effective Date. Section 60 shall take effect June 30, 2021.

31 62 State Aid Grants; Department of Environmental Services.

32 I. Notwithstanding RSA 486, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023 and unless the
33 provisions of paragraph II are met, no state aid grants shall be made for any new infrastructure
34 projects that would have otherwise been eligible for state aid grants under RSA 486, RSA 486-A, or
35 RSA 149-M. In addition, notwithstanding RSA 486 and RSA 486-A, state payments for existing
36 infrastructure project grants shall be suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2023. Nothing in

1 this section shall affect the provision of the future water supply land protection grants under RSA
2 486-A if funding is available for such purposes.

3 II. If on December 31, 2021 state general fund unrestricted revenues as reported by the
4 department of administrative services are above the revenue plan, the commissioner of the
5 department of environmental services may, with the approval of the legislative fiscal committee and
6 the governor and executive council request additional general funds to make grant payments for
7 existing infrastructure projects. The commissioner may make additional requests every 6 months
8 during the biennium ending June 30, 2023. Additional appropriations made under this section shall
9 not exceed 50 percent of the year-to-date amount of revenue above the revenue plan.

10 63 Office of Professional Licensure and Certification; Renaming and Reorganizing of Divisions.
11 Amend RSA 310-A:1-a to read as follows:

12 310-A:1-a Office of Professional Licensure and Certification; Division of [~~Technical Professions~~]
13 **Licensing and Board Administration** and Division of [~~Health Professions~~] **Enforcement**
14 Established. There shall be an office of professional licensure and certification that shall consist of
15 the division of [~~technical professions~~] **licensing and board administration** and the division of
16 [~~health professions~~] **enforcement**.

17 I. The [~~division of technical professions~~] **office of professional licensure and**
18 **certification** shall consist of each of the boards, councils, and commissions of:

- 19 (a) Professional engineers under RSA 310-A:3.
20 (b) Architects under RSA 310-A:29.
21 (c) Land surveyors under RSA 310-A:55.
22 (d) Natural scientists under RSA 310-A:81.
23 (e) Foresters under RSA 310-A:100.
24 (f) Professional geologists under RSA 310-A:120.
25 (g) Landscape architects under RSA 310-A:142.
26 (h) Court reporters under RSA 310-A:163.
27 (i) Home inspectors under RSA 310-A:186.
28 (j) Accountants under RSA 309-B:4.
29 (k) Manufactured housing installers under RSA 205-D:2.
30 (l) Real estate appraisers under RSA 310-B:4.
31 (m) Electricians under RSA 319-C:4.
32 (n) Board of manufactured housing under RSA 205-A:25.
33 (o) Guardians ad litem under RSA 490-C:1.
34 (p) Family mediators under RSA 328-C:4.
35 (q) Real estate commission under RSA 331-A:5.
36 (r) Septic system evaluators under RSA 310-A:206.

1 ~~II. The division of health professions shall consist of each of the boards, councils,~~
2 ~~commissions, and practices of:~~

- 3 ~~(a)~~ **(s)** Hearing care providers under RSA ~~[137-F:3]~~ **326-F and RSA 328-F.**
4 ~~(b)~~ **(t)** Examiners of nursing home administrators under RSA 151-A:3.
5 ~~(c)~~ **(u)** Podiatry under RSA 315:1.
6 ~~(d)~~ **(v)** Chiropractic examiners under RSA 316-A:2.
7 ~~(e)~~ **(w)** Dental examiners under RSA 317-A:2.
8 ~~(f)~~ **(x)** Registration of funeral directors and embalmers under RSA 325:2.
9 ~~(g)~~ **(y)** Midwifery council under RSA 326-D:3.
10 ~~(h)~~ **(z)** Licensed dietitians under RSA 326-H:7.
11 ~~(i)~~ **(aa)** Optometry under RSA 327:2.
12 ~~(j)~~ **(bb)** Naturopathic board of examiners under RSA 328-E:7.
13 ~~(k)~~ **(cc)** Licensed allied health professionals under RSA 328-F:3.
14 ~~(l)~~ **(dd)** Acupuncture licensing under RSA 328-G:3.
15 ~~(m)~~ **(ee)** Psychologists under RSA 329-B:3.
16 ~~(n)~~ **(ff)** Mental health practice under RSA 330-A:3.
17 ~~(o)~~ **(gg)** Licensing for alcohol and other drug use professionals under RSA 330-C:3.
18 ~~(p)~~ **(hh)** Electrologists under RSA 314:2-a.
19 ~~(q)~~ **(ii)** Body art practitioners under RSA 314-A.
20 ~~(r)~~ **(jj)** Ophthalmic dispensers under RSA 327-A:2.
21 ~~(s)~~ **(kk)** Reflexology, structural integrators, and Asian bodywork therapists under RSA
22 328-H:6.
23 ~~(t)~~ **(ll)** Massage therapists under RSA 328-B:5.
24 ~~(u)~~ **(mm)** Medicine under RSA 329:2.
25 ~~(v)~~ **(nn)** Nursing under RSA 326-B:3 and nursing assistant registry under RSA 326-
26 B:26.
27 ~~(w)~~ **(oo)** Pharmacy under RSA 318:2.
28 ~~(x)~~ **(pp)** Barbering, cosmetology, and esthetics under RSA 313-A:2.
29 ~~(y)~~ **(qq)** Medical technicians under RSA 328-I:2.
30 ~~(z)~~ **(rr)** Medical imaging and radiation therapists under RSA 328-J:1.
31 **(ss) Board of veterinary medicine under RSA 332-B.**
32 **(tt) Mechanical licensing board under RSA 153:27-a.**

33 ~~III.~~ **II.** Administrative rules adopted pursuant to RSA 541-A governing the licensing
34 boards, commissions, and councils set forth in ~~[paragraphs I and II]~~ **paragraph I** shall remain in
35 effect until amended, expired, or repealed.

36 64 Temporary Licensing Process; Reference Change. Amend RSA 310-A:1-f, I to read as follows:

1 I. Health care professionals shall ~~[be defined as]~~ **include** those individuals licensed by the
2 boards, councils, and commissions within the ~~[division of health professions]~~ **office of professional**
3 **licensure and certification** as set forth in RSA 310-A:1-a, ~~[II, with the exception of those licensed~~
4 ~~pursuant to RSA 314, RSA 314 A, RSA 313, RSA 328 B, and RSA 328 H]~~ **who perform specified**
5 **medical or ancillary services within the scope of his or her authority, as determined by the**
6 **executive director.**

7 65 Telemedicine; Reference Change. Amend RSA 310-A:1-g, IV to read as follows:

8 IV. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an out-of-state healthcare
9 professional providing services by means of telemedicine or telehealth shall be required to be
10 licensed, certified, or registered by the appropriate licensing board within the ~~[division of health~~
11 ~~professions]~~ **office of professional licensure and certification**. This paragraph shall not apply to
12 out-of-state physicians who provide consultation services pursuant to RSA 329:21, II.

13 66 Office of Professional Licensure and Certification; Division Directors; Unclassified Positions
14 Established. Amend RSA 310-A:1-c to read as follows:

15 310-A:1-c Division Directors; **Pharmacy Compliance Investigators**.

16 I. There is established in the office of professional licensure and certification 2 unclassified
17 directors: The director of the division of ~~[technical professions]~~ **licensing and board**
18 **administration** and director of the division of ~~[health professions]~~ **enforcement**. Each director
19 shall be qualified to hold that position by reason of education and experience and shall perform such
20 duties as the executive director from time to time may authorize.

21 II. The executive director shall nominate for appointment by the governor, with the consent
22 of the council, each unclassified division director, each of whom shall serve for a term of 4 years.

23 **III. There are established in the office of professional licensure and certification**
24 **the unclassified position of chief pharmacy compliance investigator and 2 unclassified**
25 **pharmacy investigator positions. Each investigator shall be qualified for the position by**
26 **reason of education and experience, shall be nominated by the executive director for**
27 **appointment by the governor and council, and shall serve at the pleasure of the executive**
28 **director. The chief pharmacy compliance investigator shall oversee pharmacy compliance**
29 **and investigations, shall supervise the pharmacy compliance investigators, and shall**
30 **perform such duties as the executive director from time to time may authorize.**

31 67 Office of Professional Licensure and Certification; Classified Positions Abolished; Funding
32 Transferred to Unclassified Positions.

33 I. Upon the appointment of a chief pharmacy compliance investigator and 2 pharmacy
34 investigators to the office of professional licensure and certification, the following positions shall be
35 abolished to allow for the transition of these classified positions with their available appropriations
36 into the unclassified positions established in RSA 310-A:1-c, III. Funding shall be transferred into
37 expenditure class 011, within accounting unit 01-21-21-216010-33020000. The incumbents in the

1 abolished classified positions shall be offered the opportunity to seek the executive director's
2 nomination for the unclassified positions:

3 (a) Pharmacy Board Compliance Investigator, 22008.

4 (b) Pharmacy Board Compliance Investigator, 14337.

5 (c) Program Specialist I/Assistant Pharmacy Inspector, 17094.

6 II. The salary of the unclassified positions shall be determined after assessment and review
7 of the appropriate temporary letter grade allocation in RSA 94:1-a, I(b) for the positions which shall
8 be conducted pursuant to RSA 94:1-d and RSA 14:14-c.

9 68 Office of Professional Licensure and Certification; Fees. Amend RSA 310-A:1-e, I to read as
10 follows:

11 I.(a) The executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification shall
12 assess annual or biennial license, certification, and renewal fees, as well as any necessary
13 administrative fees for each professional regulatory board, council, or commission administered by
14 the office. *Such fees shall be sufficient to produce estimated revenues up to 125 percent of*
15 *the total operating expenses for the office, as determined by averaging the operating*
16 *expenses for the office for the previous 2 fiscal years.*

17 (b) There is hereby established the office of professional licensure and certification fund
18 into which the fees collected under subparagraph (a) shall be deposited. After paying all costs and
19 salaries associated with the office, moneys in this fund shall lapse to the general fund at the close of
20 each ~~[fiscal year]~~ *biennium*.

21 69 Mechanical Licensing Board; Transfer to Office of Professional Licensure and Certification.
22 Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 153:27-a to read as follows:

23 153:27-a Mechanical Licensing Board. There is hereby established as a unit within the ~~[division~~
24 ~~of fire safety a mechanical licensing board]~~ *office of professional licensure and certification*.
25 The term of office for the members appointed to the board shall be 3 years and until a successor is
26 appointed. The initial appointed members of the board shall serve staggered terms. Vacancies shall
27 be filled in the same manner and for the unexpired terms. No member of the board shall be
28 appointed to more than 2 consecutive terms. A member of the board shall serve as the board
29 secretary.

30 70 Appropriation; Internet Crimes Against Children Fund. The sum of \$250,000 for the fiscal
31 year ending June 30, 2022, and the sum of \$250,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, are
32 hereby appropriated to the New Hampshire Internet crimes against children fund established in
33 RSA 21-M:17. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the
34 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

35 71 FRM Victims' Contribution Recovery Fund; Transfer of Funds. Amend RSA 359-P:2, I and II
36 to read as follows:

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1 I. There is hereby established the FRM victims' contribution recovery fund. The fund shall
2 be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the director. ~~[The fund shall be capped at~~
3 ~~\$10,000,000 and shall consist of gifts and contributions of any kind.]~~ *For the fiscal year ending*
4 *June 30, 2022, \$1,000,000 shall be transferred to the fund from the bureau of securities*
5 *regulation investors education fund established in RSA 421-B:6-601(h) and \$4,000,000 shall*
6 *be transferred to the fund from the department of justice consumer protection escrow*
7 *account established in RSA 7:6-f. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, \$1,000,000 shall*
8 *be transferred to the fund from the bureau of securities regulation investors education*
9 *fund established in RSA 421-B:6-601(h) and \$4,000,000 shall be transferred to the fund from*
10 *the department of justice consumer protection escrow account established in RSA 7:6-f. In*
11 *the event funds are not available in any of the aforementioned fiscal years to achieve a*
12 *balance of \$10,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, transfers to the fund shall*
13 *continue on an annual basis from those sources in the same annual amounts or as*
14 *available, until the \$10,000,000 fund balance is achieved.*

15 II. The fund shall be used for awarding recovery assistance pursuant to this chapter *and to*
16 *fund the position established in RSA 359-P:4.*

17 72 Attorney/Administrator. Amend RSA 359-P:4 to read as follows:

18 359-P:4 Attorney/Administrator. The director shall ~~[hire/appoint a private]~~ *hire an* attorney or
19 administrator who shall ~~[collect gifts and contributions,]~~ review applications for assistance
20 submitted pursuant to this chapter, make awards of assistance in accordance with the procedures of
21 this chapter, and report annually to the director commencing on February 1, ~~[2017]~~ *2022* and each
22 February 1 thereafter. The director shall negotiate the attorney's or administrator's ~~[compensation~~
23 ~~which in any calendar year shall be no more than 10 percent of any private sector contributions~~
24 ~~received in that calendar year]~~ *salary and benefit level in accordance with similar levels*
25 *within the department.*

26 73 Disposition of Consumer Protection Settlement Funds. Amend RSA 7:6-f to read as follows:

27 7:6-f Disposition of Consumer Protection Settlement Funds. Any funds received by the attorney
28 general on behalf of the state or its citizens as a result of any civil judgment or settlement of a claim,
29 suit, petition, or other action under RSA 358-A or related consumer protection statutes shall be
30 deposited in a consumer protection escrow account. The consumer protection escrow account shall at
31 no time exceed \$5 million, with any amount in excess of \$5 million deposited into the general fund,
32 except as otherwise provided in RSA 126-A:83 *and RSA 359-P:2*. The attorney general shall not
33 include language in any consumer protection settlement that restricts any payments to the state for
34 attorneys' fees, investigation and litigation costs, consumer education, or consumer protection
35 enforcement to the consumer protection escrow account or any other account or fund.

36 74 Bureau of Securities Regulation Investors Education Fund. Amend RSA 421-B:6-601(h) to
37 read as follows:

1 (h) Investor education fund. All moneys collected as an administrative penalty under
 2 this chapter and all moneys collected pursuant to RSA 421-B:6-614(a)(4), and (5), shall be credited to
 3 an investor education fund to be maintained by the state treasurer. Funds in excess of \$725,000 at
 4 the end of each fiscal year shall be credited to the general fund, **except as otherwise provided in**
 5 **RSA 359-P:2**. The secretary of state, after deducting administrative costs, shall use moneys
 6 credited to that fund to provide information to residents of this state about investments in securities,
 7 to help investors and potential investors evaluate their investment decisions, protect themselves
 8 from unfair, inequitable, or fraudulent offerings, choose their broker-dealers, agents, or investment
 9 advisers more carefully, be alert for false or misleading advertising or other harmful practices, and
 10 know their rights as investors. The state treasurer shall pay the expenses of investor education out
 11 of the investor education fund consisting of the funds. The investor education fund shall be
 12 nonlapsing and continually appropriated for the purpose of paying the expenses of investor
 13 education, except that the fund shall at no time exceed \$725,000, **and except as otherwise**
 14 **provided in RSA 359-P:2**.

15 75 Repeal of the Prospective Repeal of FRM Fund. 2016, 293:6, relative to the July 1, 2023
 16 repeal of the FRM victims' contribution recovery fund in RSA 359-P:2, is repealed.

17 76 Powers of the Governor; State of Emergency Declaration. Amend RSA 4:45, II(a) to read as
 18 follows:

19 II.(a) A state of emergency shall terminate automatically 21 days after its declaration unless
 20 it is renewed under the same procedures set forth in paragraph I of this section. The governor may,
 21 by executive order, renew a declaration of a state of emergency **only once, unless the clerk of**
 22 **either chamber of the legislature, or the assistant clerk pursuant to RSA 14:4, has certified**
 23 **within the past 7 days that, to the best of their knowledge, at least half of the membership**
 24 **of the chamber is incapacitated or missing in which case the governor may renew a**
 25 **declaration of a state of emergency** as many times as the governor finds is necessary to protect
 26 the safety and welfare of the inhabitants of this state. **The general court may, by concurrent**
 27 **resolution, renew a declaration of a state of emergency as many times as it finds is**
 28 **necessary to protect the safety and welfare of the inhabitants of this state.**

29 77 New Subparagraph; Powers of the Governor; State of Emergency Declaration. Amend RSA
 30 4:45, II by inserting after subparagraph (c) the following new subparagraph:

31 (d) If it is in the best interest of the state to continue a state of emergency declaration for
 32 financial reasons such as federal funding eligibility, the legislature may vote to create a nominal
 33 state of emergency, but such a nominal state of emergency shall not extend any emergency powers to
 34 any official. A nominal state of emergency may be renewed by a majority vote of both chambers of
 35 the legislature.

36 78 Revenue Stabilization Account; Cap. Amend RSA 9:13-e, V to read as follows:

1 V. If, after the requirements of paragraphs II-IV have been met and the balance remaining
2 in the revenue stabilization reserve account is in excess of an amount equal to 10 percent of the
3 actual general fund unrestricted revenues for the most recently completed fiscal [year] **biennium**,
4 then such excess, less any amounts deposited pursuant to RSA 7:6-e, shall be transferred, without
5 further action, to the general fund surplus account.

6 79 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services. The sums of \$12,401,552 in
7 fiscal year 2022 and \$13,031,765 in fiscal year 2023 are hereby appropriated to the department of
8 health and human services for the purpose of funding one-time maintenance of the legacy Medicaid
9 management information system as the department transitions to new modular information
10 technology systems. The department may accept and expend matching federal funds without prior
11 approval of the fiscal committee. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of
12 any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

13 80 Rate. Amend RSA 77:1 to read as follows:

14 77:1 Rate.

15 I. The annual tax upon incomes shall be levied at the rate of 5 percent **for all taxable**
16 **periods ending before December 31, 2023.**

17 II. **The annual tax upon incomes shall be levied at the rate of 4 percent for all**
18 **taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2023.**

19 III. **The annual tax upon incomes shall be levied at the rate of 3 percent for all**
20 **taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2024.**

21 IV. **The annual tax upon incomes shall be levied at the rate of 2 percent for all**
22 **taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2025.**

23 V. **The annual tax upon incomes shall be levied at the rate of 1 percent for all**
24 **taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2026.**

25 81 Reference to Interest and Dividends Tax Deleted; 2027. Amend RSA 14-B:8, III(q) to read as
26 follows:

27 (q) New Hampshire taxes, specifying if business profits tax[;] **or** business enterprise
28 tax[; ~~or interest and dividends tax~~].

29 82 Reference to Interest and Dividends Tax Deleted; 2027. Amend RSA 15-A:5, I(d)(17) to read
30 as follows:

31 (17) New Hampshire taxes, specifying if business profits tax[;] **or** business
32 enterprise tax[; ~~or interest and dividends tax~~].

33 83 Reference to Interest and Dividends Tax Deleted; 2027. Amend RSA 21-J:31 to read as
34 follows:

35 21-J:31 Penalty for Failure to File. Any taxpayer who fails to file a return when due, unless an
36 extension has been granted by the department, shall pay a penalty equal to 5 percent of the amount
37 of the tax due or \$10, whichever is greater, for each month or part of a month during which the

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1 return remains unfiled. The total amount of any penalty shall not, however, exceed 25 percent of
2 the amount of the tax due or \$50, whichever is greater. This penalty shall not be applied in any
3 case in which a return is filed within the extended filing period as provided in ~~[RSA 77:18 b,]~~
4 RSA 77-A:9, RSA 77-E:8, RSA 83-C:6, RSA 83-E:5, RSA 84-A:7, or RSA 84-C:7, or the failure to file
5 was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect of the taxpayer. The amount of the penalty is
6 determined by applying the percentages specified to the net amount of any tax due after crediting
7 any timely payments made through estimating or other means.

8 84 Reference to Interest and Dividends Tax Deleted; 2027. Amend RSA 21-J:33-a, I to read as
9 follows:

10 I. If there is a substantial understatement of tax imposed under ~~[RSA 77,]~~ RSA 77-A,
11 RSA 77-E, RSA 78-A, RSA 78-C, RSA 82-A, RSA 83-C, RSA 83-E, or RSA 84-A for any taxable
12 period, there shall be added to the tax an amount equal to 25 percent of the amount of any
13 underpayment attributable to such understatement.

14 85 Reference to Interest and Dividends Tax Deleted; 2027. Amend RSA 21-J:46, III to read as
15 follows:

16 III. This section shall apply only to tax returns and associated payments under ~~[RSA 77,]~~
17 RSA 77-A~~[,]~~ and RSA 77-E.

18 86 References to Interest and Dividends Tax Deleted; 2027. Amend RSA 71-C:4, I and II to
19 read as follows:

20 I. On or before December 15 of every fiscal year the commissioner of the department of
21 revenue administration shall certify in a report to the general court and the governor an analysis of
22 each of the past fiscal year's tax expenditures as identified in RSA 71-C:2, and other credits allowed
23 under ~~[RSA 77,]~~ RSA 77-A, RSA 77-E, RSA 77-G, RSA 78, RSA 78-A, 78-B, RSA 82-A, RSA 83-E,
24 RSA 84-A, RSA 84-C, and RSA 400-A.

25 II. The report shall be divided into the following parts:

26 (a) Tax expenditures as determined by the joint committee on tax expenditure review
27 under RSA 71-C:3;

28 (b) Potential liabilities against the state's revenues, specifically:

29 (1) Other credits allowed under ~~[RSA 77,]~~ RSA 77-A, RSA 77-E, RSA 77-G, RSA 78,
30 RSA 78-A, RSA 78-B, RSA 82, RSA 82-A, RSA 83-E, RSA 84-A, RSA 84-C, and RSA 400-A against
31 the business profits tax imposed by RSA 77-A; and

32 (2) Credit carryovers from overpaid taxes.

33 87 Education Tax Credit Scholarship Organizations; 2027. Amend RSA 77-G:3 to read as
34 follows:

35 77-G:3 Contributions to Scholarship Organizations. For each contribution made to a
36 scholarship organization, a business organization, business enterprise, or individual may claim a
37 credit equal to 85 percent of the contribution against the business profits tax due pursuant to RSA

1 77-A, against the business enterprise tax due pursuant to RSA 77-E, [~~against the tax on interest and~~
2 ~~dividends under RSA 77,~~] or apportioned against each provided the total credit granted shall not
3 exceed the maximum education tax credit allowed. Credits provided under this chapter shall not be
4 deemed taxes paid for the purposes of RSA 77-A:5, X. The department of revenue administration
5 shall not grant the credit without a scholarship receipt. No business organization, business
6 enterprise, or individual shall direct, assign, or restrict any contribution to a scholarship
7 organization for the use of a particular student or nonpublic school. No business organization,
8 business enterprise, or individual shall receive more than 10 percent of the aggregate amount of tax
9 credits permitted in RSA 77-G:4.

10 88 Education Tax Credit Scholarship Organizations; 2027. Amend RSA 77-G:5, I, (i)(2) to read
11 as follows:

12 (2) Not knowingly award a scholarship to any lineal descendant or equivalent step-
13 person of any proprietor, partner, or member of any business organization, business enterprise, or
14 individual making a contribution to a scholarship organization and claiming a credit against the
15 business profits tax~~[,]~~ *or* business enterprise tax, [~~or tax on interest and dividends,~~] nor any lineal
16 descendant or equivalent step-person of any officer, director, or owner of more than a 5 percent
17 interest in any business organization, business enterprise, or individual making a contribution to a
18 scholarship organization and claiming a credit against the business profits tax~~[,]~~ *or* business
19 enterprise tax, [~~or tax on interest and dividends,~~] nor any employee who is among the highest-paid
20 20 percent of paid employees in any business organization, business enterprise, or individual making
21 a contribution to a scholarship organization and claiming a credit against the business profits tax~~[,]~~
22 *or* business enterprise tax~~[, or tax on interest and dividends]~~.

23 89 Issuance of Electric Rate Reduction Bonds; 2027. Amend RSA 369-B:5, VI to read as follows:

24 VI. The exercise of the powers granted by this chapter shall be in all respects for the benefit
25 of the people of this state, for the increase of their commerce, welfare, and prosperity, and as the
26 exercise of such powers shall constitute the performance of an essential public function, neither any
27 electric utility, any affiliate of any electric utility, any financing entity, nor any collection or other
28 agent of any of the foregoing shall be required to pay any taxes or assessments upon or in respect of
29 any revenues or property received, acquired, transferred, or used by any electric utility, any affiliate
30 of any electric utility, any financing entity, or any collection or other agent of any of the foregoing
31 under the provisions of this chapter or upon or in respect of the income therefrom, and any rate
32 reduction bonds shall be treated as notes or bonds of a political subdivision of the state [~~for purposes~~
33 ~~of RSA 77]~~.

34 90 Repeals; Interest and Dividends Taxation; 2027. The following are repealed:

35 I. RSA 21-J:45, I(c), relative to reports on status of requested interest and dividends tax
36 refunds.

37 II. RSA 77, relative to taxation of incomes.

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1 III. RSA 77-A:4-c, II(c), relative to the duty of a committee to study the taxation of
2 distributions received by investment organizations under the interest and dividends tax.

3 IV. RSA 77-A:4, I, relative to an adjustment to the business profits tax for taxes under
4 RSA 77.

5 V. RSA 195-H:10, relative to exemption from RSA 77 for income and distributions from
6 qualified tuition programs.

7 VI. RSA 195-K:4, relative to exemption from RSA 77 for income and distributions in the
8 ABLE savings account program.

9 VII. RSA 261:52-a, relative to notice that the interest and dividends tax may be due.

10 VIII. RSA 391:3, relative to the taxation of common trust funds under RSA 77.

11 91 Returns for Interest and Dividends Taxes; 2027. All persons who are liable for a tax under
12 RSA 77 as of December 31, 2026, who thereafter are no longer liable for a tax under RSA 77 because
13 of the passage of this act shall make a return of such taxes due the commissioner of revenue
14 administration in such manner and on such forms as the commissioner shall prescribe in rules
15 adopted under RSA 541-A. The administrative provisions of RSA 77 shall remain in effect to permit
16 the audit and collection of taxes upon income taxable under RSA 77 which is received by persons
17 subject to taxation under that chapter through December 31, 2026, and to permit the distribution of
18 that revenue. Persons who are liable for a tax under RSA 77 who do not report the payment of
19 federal income taxes on a calendar year basis are entitled to such proportion of the exemptions
20 allowed in RSA 77 as the reporting period bears to their taxable year.

21 92 Application; Repeal of RSA 77. Paragraph II of section 90 shall apply to taxable periods
22 beginning after December 31, 2026.

23 93 Effective Date.

24 I. Section 80 this act shall take effect January 1, 2022.

25 II. Sections 81-92 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

26 94 Imposition of Tax. Amend RSA 78-A:6 to read as follows:

27 78-A:6 Imposition of Tax.

28 I. A tax of [9] 8.5 percent of the rent is imposed upon each occupancy.

29 II. A tax is imposed on taxable meals based upon the charge therefor as follows:

30 (a) Four cents for a charge between \$.36 and \$.37 inclusive;

31 (b) Five cents for a charge between \$.38 and \$.50 inclusive;

32 (c) Six cents for a charge between \$.51 and \$.62 inclusive;

33 (d) Seven cents for a charge between \$.63 and \$.75 inclusive;

34 (e) Eight cents for a charge between \$.76 and \$.87 inclusive;

35 (f) Nine cents for a charge between \$.88 and \$1.00 inclusive;

36 (g) [Nine] **Eight and a half** percent of the charge for taxable meals over \$1.00, provided
37 that fractions of cents shall be rounded up to the next whole cent.

1 II-a. A tax of [9] 8.5 percent is imposed upon the gross rental receipts of each rental.

2 III. The operator shall collect the taxes imposed by this section and shall pay them over to
3 the state as provided in this chapter.

4 95 Applicability. RSA 78-A:6, as amended by section 94 of this act, shall be applicable to taxable
5 periods beginning on or after October 1, 2021.

6 96 Effective Date. Sections 94-95 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

7 97 Business Enterprise Tax; Returns. Amend RSA 77-E:5, I to read as follows:

8 I. Every business enterprise having gross business receipts in excess of [\$200,000] **\$250,000**
9 as defined by RSA 77-E:1, X, during the taxable period or the enterprise value tax base of which is
10 greater than [\$100,000] **\$250,000** shall, on or before the fifteenth day of the third month in the case
11 of enterprises required to file a United States partnership tax return, and the fifteenth day of the
12 fourth month in the case of all other business enterprises, following expiration of its taxable period,
13 make a return to the commissioner. For tax years beginning January 1, 2015, the commissioner
14 shall biennially adjust these threshold amounts rounding to the nearest \$1,000 based on the 2-year
15 (24-month) percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, Northeast
16 Region as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor using the
17 amount published for the month of June in the year prior to the start of the tax year. All returns
18 shall be signed by the business enterprise or by its authorized representative, subject to the pains
19 and penalties of perjury and the penalties provided in RSA 21-J:39.

20 98 Applicability. RSA 77-E:5, I, as amended by section 97 of this act, shall be applicable to
21 taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2022.

22 99 Effective Date. Sections 97-98 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2022.

23 100 Business Enterprise Tax; Rate Reduced. Amend RSA 77-E:2 to read as follows:

24 77-E:2 Imposition of Tax.

25 I. For all taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2019, a tax is imposed at the rate
26 of 0.6 percent upon the taxable enterprise value tax base of every business enterprise.

27 II. For all taxable periods ending on or after December 31, [2021] **2022**, a tax is imposed at
28 the rate of [0.675] **0.55** percent upon the taxable enterprise value tax base of every business
29 enterprise.

30 [~~III. For all taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2021, a tax is imposed at the~~
31 ~~rate of 0.5 percent upon the taxable enterprise value tax base of every business enterprise.~~

32 [~~IV. Upon completion of the audited comprehensive annual report performed pursuant to~~
33 ~~RSA 21-I:8, II(a), the commissioner of the department of revenue administration shall report the~~
34 ~~total amount of combined unrestricted general and education trust fund revenue collected for the~~
35 ~~fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, as reported in the schedule of undesignated/unassigned fund~~
36 ~~balance for the general fund and education fund, to the secretary of state with copies to the governor,~~
37 ~~speaker of the house of representatives, the senate president, the fiscal committee of the general~~

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1 ~~court, and the director of the office of legislative services. If the combined amount of general and~~
2 ~~education trust fund revenue collected, not including sums appropriated to the education trust fund~~
3 ~~in section 386 of this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is 6 percent or more below the~~
4 ~~official revenue estimates for said fiscal year, the tax shall be imposed at the rate in paragraph II~~
5 ~~and the rate in paragraph III shall not take effect. If the combined amount of general and education~~
6 ~~trust fund revenue collected, not including sums appropriated to the education trust fund in section~~
7 ~~386 of this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is 6 percent or more above the official~~
8 ~~revenue estimates for said fiscal year, the tax shall be imposed at the rate in paragraph III and the~~
9 ~~rate in paragraph II shall not take effect. If the combined amount of general and education trust~~
10 ~~fund revenue collected, not including sums appropriated to the education trust fund in section 386 of~~
11 ~~this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is not 6 percent or more below or above the official~~
12 ~~revenue estimates for said fiscal year, the tax shall continue to be imposed at the rate in paragraph~~
13 ~~I, and the rates in paragraphs II and III shall not take effect.]~~

14 101 Business Profits Tax; Rate Reduced; Contingency Deleted. Amend RSA 77-A:2 to read as
15 follows:

16 77-A:2 Imposition of Tax.

17 I. For all taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2019, a tax is imposed at the rate
18 of 7.7 percent upon the taxable business profits of every business organization.

19 II. ~~[For all taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2021, a tax is imposed at the~~
20 ~~rate of 7.9 percent upon the taxable business profits of every business organization.~~

21 ~~III.]~~ For all taxable periods ending on or after December 31, ~~[2021]~~ 2022, a tax is imposed at
22 the rate of ~~[7.5]~~ 7.6 percent upon the taxable business profits of every business organization.

23 ~~[IV. Upon completion of the audited comprehensive annual report performed pursuant to~~
24 ~~RSA 21-I:8, II(a), the commissioner of the department of revenue administration shall report the~~
25 ~~total amount of combined unrestricted general and education trust fund revenue collected for the~~
26 ~~fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, as reported in the schedule of undesignated/unassigned fund~~
27 ~~balance for the general fund and education fund, to the secretary of state with copies to the governor,~~
28 ~~speaker of the house of representatives, the senate president, the fiscal committee of the general~~
29 ~~court, and the director of the office of legislative services. If the combined amount of general and~~
30 ~~education trust fund revenue collected, not including sums appropriated to the education trust fund~~
31 ~~in section 386 of this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is 6 percent or more below the~~
32 ~~official revenue estimates for said fiscal year, the tax shall be imposed at the rate in paragraph II~~
33 ~~and the rate in paragraph III shall not take effect. If the combined amount of general and education~~
34 ~~trust fund revenue collected, not including sums appropriated to the education trust fund in section~~
35 ~~386 of this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is 6 percent or more above the official~~
36 ~~revenue estimates for said fiscal year, the tax shall be imposed at the rate in paragraph III and the~~
37 ~~rate in paragraph II shall not take effect. If the combined amount of general and education trust~~

1 ~~fund revenue collected, not including sums appropriated to the education trust fund in section 386 of~~
2 ~~this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is not 6 percent or more below or above the official~~
3 ~~revenue estimates for said fiscal year, the tax shall continue to be imposed at the rate in paragraph~~
4 ~~I, and the rates in paragraphs II and III shall not take effect.]~~

5 101-a Effective Date. Sections 100 - 101 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

6 102 Disposition of Revenue. Amend RSA 78-A:26, II to read as follows:

7 II. Each fiscal year, the amount to be distributed shall be equal to the prior year's
8 distribution plus an amount equal to 75 percent of any increase in the income received from the
9 meals and rooms tax for the fiscal year ending on the preceding June 30, not to exceed \$5,000,000,
10 until such time as the total amount distributed annually is equal to the amount indicated in
11 subparagraph I(c). ***If there is no increase in the income received from the meals and rooms***
12 ***tax compared to the fiscal year ending on the preceding June 30, the amount to be***
13 ***distributed shall be equal to the prior year's distribution.***

14 103 Effective Date. Section 102 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

15 104 Business Profits Tax; Credit Carry-forward Limited; Payments Due With Returns and
16 Estimates. Amend RSA 77-A:7, I(b) to read as follows:

17 (b) If the return required by RSA 77-A:6, I shows an additional amount to be due, such
18 additional amount is due and payable on the prescribed payment date. If such return shows an
19 overpayment of the tax due, the commissioner shall refund or credit the overpayment to the
20 taxpayer in accordance with RSA 21-J:28-a, ***except that:***

21 ***(1) For taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2022 a credit shall***
22 ***only be allowed in an amount up to 500 percent of the total tax liability for the taxable***
23 ***period and the remainder of the overpayment shall be refunded;***

24 ***(2) For taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2025 a credit shall***
25 ***only be allowed in an amount up to 250 percent of the total tax liability for the taxable***
26 ***period and the remainder of the overpayment shall be refunded; and***

27 ***(3) For taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2027 a credit shall***
28 ***only be allowed in an amount up to 100 percent of the total tax liability for the taxable***
29 ***period and the remainder of the overpayment shall be refunded.***

30 105 Business Enterprise Tax; Credit Carry-forward Limited; Payments Due With Returns.
31 Amend RSA 77-E:6, II to read as follows:

32 II. If the return required by RSA 77-E:5, I shows an amount to be due, such amount is due
33 and payable on the prescribed payment date. If such return shows an overpayment of the tax due,
34 the commissioner shall refund ~~[such]~~ ***or credit the*** overpayment to the business enterprise ~~[or shall~~
35 ~~allow the enterprise a credit against a subsequent payment or payment due, to the extent of the~~
36 ~~overpayment, at the enterprise's option]~~ ***in accordance with RSA 21-J:28-a, except that:***

1 (a) *For taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2022 a credit shall only*
2 *be allowed in an amount up to 500 percent of the total tax liability for the taxable period*
3 *and the remainder of the overpayment shall be refunded;*

4 (b) *For taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2025 a credit shall only*
5 *be allowed in an amount up to 250 percent of the total tax liability for the taxable period*
6 *and the remainder of the overpayment shall be refunded; and*

7 (c) *For taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2027 a credit shall only*
8 *be allowed in an amount up to 100 percent of the total tax liability for the taxable period*
9 *and the remainder of the overpayment shall be refunded.*

10 106 New Section; Commission to Study Limiting the Business Tax Credit Carry Over. Amend
11 RSA 77-A by inserting after section 7-a the following new section:

12 77-A:7.b Commission to Study Limiting the Business Tax Credit Carry Over.

13 I. There is a established a commission to study limiting the business tax credit carry over.
14 The members of the commission shall be as follows:

15 (a) Four members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
16 of representatives with at least 2 members from the ways and means committee and one member
17 from the finance committee.

18 (b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

19 (c) The treasurer for the state of New Hampshire, or designee.

20 (d) The comptroller for the state of New Hampshire, or designee.

21 (e) The commissioner for the department of revenue administration, or designee.

22 (f) One member representing the accounting or auditing industry, appointed by the
23 governor.

24 II. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
25 attending to the duties of the commission.

26 III. The commission's study shall include, but not be limited to, examining the credit carry
27 over for the business profits tax and business enterprise tax, the liability associated with the credit
28 carry over, and the impact of limiting the credit carry over may have on cash flow and liquidity, and
29 make recommendations on future limitations of the credit carry over.

30 IV. The commission may solicit input from any person or entity the commission deems
31 relevant to its study.

32 V. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The
33 first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting
34 of the commission shall be held as soon as practical but not later than 30 days of the effective date of
35 this section. Five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

1 VI. The commission shall submit a report including its findings and any recommendations
2 for proposed legislation on or before November 1, 2021 to the speaker of the house of representatives,
3 the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library.

4 107 Repeal. RSA 77-A:7-b, relative to the commission to study limiting the business tax credit
5 carry over, is repealed.

6 108 Effective Date.

7 I. Sections 104-106 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

8 II. Section 107 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2021.

9 109 New Hampshire Veterans' Home; Unfunded Positions; Authorization. Notwithstanding any
10 other provision of law to the contrary, the New Hampshire veterans' home may fill unfunded
11 positions during the biennium ending June 30, 2023, provided that the total expenditure for such
12 positions shall not exceed the amount appropriated for personal services.

13 110 New Hampshire Veterans' Home; Transfer Among Accounts and Classes. Notwithstanding
14 any provision of law to the contrary, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, the commandant of the
15 New Hampshire veterans' home is authorized to transfer funds within and among all accounting
16 units within the home and to create accounting units and expenditure classes as required and as the
17 commandant deems necessary and appropriate to address present or projected budget deficits, or to
18 respond to changes in federal law, regulations, or programs, and otherwise as necessary for the
19 efficient management of the home, including funding of unfunded positions, provided that if a
20 transfer does not include new accounting units or expenditure classes, only such transfers of
21 \$100,000 or more shall require prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court and the
22 governor and council. The New Hampshire veterans' home shall be exempt from RSA 9:17-a, I and
23 RSA 9:17-c, subject to approval by the fiscal committee of the general court of any transfer of
24 appropriations from permanent personal services or employee benefits to any other use or purpose.

25 111 New Hampshire Veterans' Home; Per Diem Payments. During the biennium ending June
26 30, 2023, if projected revenues to the New Hampshire veterans' home from member excess income
27 and veterans administration per diem payments exceed the amount estimated, said projected
28 increases may be expended with prior approval of the governor and council. If actual revenue
29 received from members excess income and veterans administration per diem payments are less than
30 the amounts estimated, the total appropriation for the New Hampshire veterans' home shall not be
31 reduced and shall be available for expenditure as budgeted.

32 112 New Hampshire Veterans' Home; Waiver from RSA 9:17-a Limitations. During the
33 biennium ending June 30, 2023, the New Hampshire veterans' home may be exempt from the
34 limitations set forth in RSA 9:17-a, I, subject to approval by the fiscal committee of the general court
35 of any transfer of appropriations from permanent personal services to any other use or purpose.

36 113 New Hampshire Veterans' Home; Waiver from RSA 9:17-c. The New Hampshire veterans
37 home may be exempt from the limitations set forth in RSA 9:17-c, subject to approval by the fiscal

1 committee of the general court of any transfer of appropriations from employee benefits to any other
2 use or purpose.

3 114 Wildlife Damage Control; Limitations for Persons Posting Property. Amend RSA 207:22-a
4 to read as follows:

5 207:22-a Limitations for Persons Posting Property.

6 *I.* Any person whose land is posted pursuant to RSA 635:4 to prohibit hunting shall forfeit
7 the right to participate in the wildlife damage control program established pursuant to RSA 207:22-
8 c, or to receive payment pursuant to RSA 207:23-a, except that this limitation shall not apply in the
9 following circumstances:

10 ~~[I.]~~ *(a)* To a person who posts only the person's land lying within 100 yards of a dwelling or
11 other farm or outbuildings contiguous to the person's dwelling and used regularly by the person, or
12 the person's family or tenant.

13 ~~[II.]~~ *(b)* To any person whose land is posted for the protection of crops only during the closed
14 season for the type of game birds or animals for which the person seeks assistance from the wildlife
15 damage control program.

16 ~~[III.]~~ *(c)* To any person who posts such person's land "Hunting by Permission Only",
17 provided that the names and addresses of the hunters who have received permission to hunt that
18 land in that year shall be furnished when requested by the executive director, and that in the
19 judgment of the executive director, the history of hunter access and hunter density represents a
20 good-faith effort by the landowner to allow hunting.

21 *II. Any person who has received payment pursuant to RSA 207:23-a shall forfeit the*
22 *right to receive payment in a future year or growing season unless such person implements*
23 *measures to prevent or mitigate future conflicts with bear that have been recommended in*
24 *writing by the executive director or the executive director's agent.*

25 115 Damage by Bears. Amend RSA 207:23-a to read as follows:

26 207:23-a Damage by Bears ~~[or Mountain Lions]~~.

27 *I.* ~~[A person]~~ *Any person engaged in the husbandry and sale of at least \$1,000 in*
28 *agricultural products as defined in RSA 21:34-a* who suffers loss or damage to livestock, bees,
29 orchards or growing crops, *in an amount of \$250 or more at the current wholesale value of the*
30 *items*, by bear ~~[or mountain lion]~~, shall, if he *or she* claims damage therefor, notify the executive
31 director of fish and game in writing of such damage *within 30 days of the discovery of such*
32 *damage*. The executive director or ~~[his]~~ *the executive director's* agent shall investigate such
33 claim within 30 days from the receipt ~~[by him]~~ of notice of such damage, and ~~[within one year]~~ *in*
34 *accordance with RSA 541-A:29*, determine whether such damage was caused by bear ~~[or mountain~~
35 ~~lion]~~, and appraise the amount to be paid, *and notify the claimant in writing of the*
36 *determination.*

1 to and between all levels of higher education, adapting to the rapidly evolving challenges facing all of
2 higher education, and governed by a unified board of trustees, may be an efficient and effective
3 means for meeting the needs of the citizens and the state.

4 188-I:2 Purpose. The commission is established to explore, study, and assess the potential for
5 establishing a collaborative and strategic merging of the university system of New Hampshire,
6 established in RSA 187-A, and the community college system of New Hampshire, established in RSA
7 188-F. The goal of the commission shall be to determine if a unified system of public higher
8 education is, in all respects, beneficial to the citizens of New Hampshire, and if so, to recommend
9 legislation to provide for the implementation of a coordinated, comprehensive system of public
10 higher education.

11 188-I:3 Membership.

12 I. The membership of the commission shall be as follows:

13 (a) Four members appointed by the university system of New Hampshire, one of whom
14 shall be the chairperson of the board of trustees and one of whom shall be the chief executive or chief
15 administrator. The additional 2 members shall be selected by the board of trustees.

16 (b) Four members of the community college system of New Hampshire, one of whom
17 shall be the chairperson of the board of trustees and one of whom shall be the chief executive or chief
18 administrator. The additional 2 members shall be selected by the board of trustees.

19 (c) Three members appointed by the governor.

20 II Any vacancy in membership shall be filled in the same manner as the commission
21 membership originally established.

22 188-I:4 Operation of the Commission.

23 I. The commission shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson upon its initial formation.

24 II. Seven members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

25 III. The commission shall meet at such times and places as it may determine. The
26 chairperson shall call special meetings upon the written request of any 3 commission members or
27 upon the chairperson's motion.

28 IV. Members shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for
29 expenses reasonably incurred by them in the performance of their duties. Legislative members shall
30 receive mileage at the legislative rate for attending to the duties of the commission.

31 188-I:5 Duties of the Commission.

32 I. On or before January 1, 2022, the commission shall recommend legislation, if determined
33 both prudent and necessary, that would result in the merging of the community college system and
34 the university system into a single entity called the "New Hampshire college and university system,"
35 to be effective no later than July 1, 2023. In the development of the proposed legislation, the
36 commission shall address and consider issues including, but not limited to, the following:

37 (a) Changes to the governance structure of public higher education in New Hampshire.

- 1 (b) Changes to state laws to improve the systems' efficiency and effectiveness.
2 (c) Development of a reasonable time line for implementation of a merged system.
3 (d) Potential synergies and reduction of unnecessary duplication of programs between
4 the systems.
5 (e) Opportunities for sharing best practices and individual efficiencies, building cross-
6 system economies of scale and sharing of resources.
7 (f) College affordability.
8 (g) Collaborative strategies to attract and retain greater proportions of New Hampshire
9 high school graduates entering the systems.
10 (h) In consultation with the commissioner of the department of education, investigating
11 and pursuing opportunities for collaboration and student pathways for New Hampshire high school
12 students.
13 (i) Financial and social impacts of the merging of disparate collective bargaining
14 agreements.
15 (j) Preserving the unique character and educational missions of 2 systems in a merged
16 system.
17 (k) Ensuring that a merged system will not result in the elimination of physical
18 education locations in any one part of the state.
19 (l) Minimizing or eliminating barriers to student transfer between the systems.
20 (m) The contents and recommendations of the "Final Report of the Study Group for Post-
21 Secondary Education" dated March 19, 2021.
22 (n) Other issues the commission identifies as pertinent to its duties.

23 II. The commission shall use such funds as appropriated to hire necessary consultants as
24 deemed necessary by the commission.

25 III. The commission shall serve as the search committee to select a chancellor once
26 legislation has been submitted, should the commission recommend a single chancellor.

27 188-I:6 Reporting. The commission shall submit interim monthly reports to the public higher
28 education study committee established in RSA 187-A:28-a, the governor, and the chancellors of the
29 university system of New Hampshire and the community college system of New Hampshire, and
30 shall submit a final report by August 31, 2022. Additional copies shall be delivered, on a monthly
31 basis, to the fiscal committee of the general court, the house education committee, and the senate
32 education committee.

33 118 Appropriation. There is hereby appropriated the sum of \$1,500,000 for the biennium ending
34 June 30, 2023 to the New Hampshire higher education merger assessment commission established
35 in RSA 188-I for the purposes established in RSA 188-I. The appropriation shall be nonlapsing for
36 the biennium. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the
37 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

1 119 Repeal. RSA 188-I, relative to the New Hampshire higher education merger assessment
2 commission, is repealed.

3 120 Effective Date. Section 119 of this act shall take effect August 31, 2022.

4 121 Department of Information Technology; Unfunded Positions. Notwithstanding any other
5 provision of law to the contrary, the department of information technology may fill unfunded
6 positions during the biennium ending June 30, 2023, provided that the total expenditure for such
7 positions shall not exceed the amount appropriated for personnel services.

8 122 Adult Parole Board; Establishment. Amend RSA 651-A:3 to read as follows:

9 651-A:3 Adult Parole Board; Establishment; Procedures.

10 I. There shall be an adult parole board with [9] 5 members, **2 of which shall be attorneys**
11 **with active licenses**. The members of the board shall be appointed by the governor with the
12 consent of the council for staggered terms of 5 years or until their successors are appointed. No
13 member shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms. A vacancy on the board shall be filled for the
14 unexpired term.

15 **II. The composition of the board shall be as follows:**

16 **(a) One member as chairman.**

17 **(b) Four additional members, to include:**

18 **(1) One member with law enforcement or corrections experience, either**
19 **current or former.**

20 **(2) One member with criminal justice experience, which may be direct**
21 **employment experience, current or former, in some capacity within the criminal justice**
22 **system, or post-secondary school teaching, scholarship, and research pertaining to the**
23 **criminal justice system.**

24 **(3) One at-large member who is either an attorney with an active New**
25 **Hampshire license or a mental health professional with an active New Hampshire license;**

26 **(4) One at-large member without any categorical designation.**

27 **III.** The governor shall designate one member as chairman [~~and the chairman shall~~
28 ~~designate one other member to serve as chairman in his absence~~]. **Beginning on January 1, 2022,**
29 **the salary of the chairman shall be established in RSA 94:1-a and shall not be higher than**
30 **grade GG, until the appropriate grade and step are determined in accordance the**
31 **provisions of RSA 21-I:42. The chairman shall report directly to the commissioner of the**
32 **department of corrections. The chairman shall designate one other member to serve as**
33 **temporary designee chairman in his or her absence, however, the designated chairman**
34 **shall not receive the chairman's salary or employee status while serving in the chairman's**
35 **absence.** In the case of a revocation hearing an attorney of the board shall be present at the
36 hearing. Board members shall be paid [~~\$100 a day plus mileage at the state employee rate while~~
37 ~~engaged in parole hearings or administrative meetings.~~] **an annual stipend of \$20,000 for each**

1 *member, to be paid in equal installments on each state employee pay period date, with no*
 2 *reimbursement for mileage or other expenses for any reason.*

3 [H] IV. The board shall hold at least [24] *36 days* of parole hearings and *36 days of parole*
 4 *revocation hearings* each year and may hold more hearings as necessary. Each parole *and*
 5 *parole revocation* hearing shall be held by a hearing panel consisting of exactly 3 members of the
 6 board. The board shall establish operating procedures which provide for rotation of board members
 7 among hearing panels.

8 V. *In the event of a pandemic or other extraordinary occurrence declared an*
 9 *emergency by the governor that results in restricted movement or quarantining of inmates*
 10 *at any New Hampshire state prison facility, the parole board may conduct all hearings via*
 11 *teleconference or other video conference technology.*

12 123 Applicability. On the effective date of section 122 of this act, the current chairman of the
 13 adult parole board shall remain chairman and designate 4 current members who fit the criteria
 14 outlined in RSA 651-A:3, II(b)(1)-(4) as inserted by section 122 of this act, to remain members of the
 15 parole board according to their current terms. In the event that there are not 4 members on the
 16 existing board who meet the criteria outlined in RSA 651-A:3, II(b)(1)-(4), the chairman may
 17 designate an existing member to temporarily occupy any open member vacancy until a new
 18 appointment for the vacancy is nominated by the governor and confirmed by the executive council.
 19 Any current members who remain on the board, including the current chairman, shall serve until
 20 the expiration of their current terms or until a successor is appointed and qualified.

21 124 Workers' Compensation; Administration Fund. Amend RSA 281-A:59, III to read as follows:

22 III. Each insurance carrier and self-insurer, including the state, shall make payments to the
 23 fund of its pro rata share of one fiscal year's costs to be appropriated out of the fund. The governor is
 24 authorized to draw a warrant for any sum payable by the state under this paragraph out of any
 25 money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. The pro rata share shall be computed on the
 26 basis which the total workers' compensation benefits, including medical benefits, paid by each
 27 insurance carrier and self-insurer bore to the total workers' compensation benefits, including
 28 medical benefits, paid by all insurance carriers and self-insurers in the [~~fiscal year ending in the~~]
 29 preceding calendar year; provided, however, that no insurance carrier or self-insurer shall pay an
 30 assessment of less than \$100. The commissioner shall assess each insurance carrier and self-insurer
 31 as soon as possible after July 1 of each year. Total assessments shall not exceed the amount
 32 appropriated for the fund, which shall include the budget of the workers' compensation division of
 33 the department of labor for the fiscal year in which the assessment is made and all other costs of
 34 administering this chapter. The balance in the fund at the beginning of the new fiscal year shall
 35 proportionately reduce the assessments under this section. The commissioner shall have the
 36 authority to adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the manner in which such payments are
 37 to be made.

1 125 Workers' Compensation; Special Fund for Second Injuries. Amend RSA 281-A:55, III to
2 read as follows:

3 III. Each insurance carrier and self-insurer shall, pursuant to rules adopted by the
4 commissioner, make payments to the fund in an amount equal to that proportion of 115 percent of
5 the total obligation of the fund during the preceding 12 months, less the amount of the net assets in
6 the fund as of March 31 of the current year, which the total workers' compensation benefits,
7 including medical benefits, paid by each insurance carrier and self-insurer bore to the total workers'
8 compensation benefits, including medical benefits, paid by all insurance carriers and self-insurers in
9 the [~~fiscal year ending in the~~] preceding calendar year.

10 126 Workers' Compensation; Appeals Board. Amend RSA 281-A:42-a, III to read as follows:

11 III. Attorney members of the board shall receive \$400 per diem and all other members of the
12 board shall each receive \$250 per diem for each day devoted to [~~the work~~] hearings of the board and
13 shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses. ***Such per diems shall be prorated to an
14 hourly rate for other related work performed by board members.***

15 127 Workers' Compensation; Hearings and Awards. Amend RSA 281-A:43, I(a) to read as
16 follows:

17 I.(a) In a controversy as to the responsibility of an employer or the employer's insurance
18 carrier for the payment of compensation and other benefits under this chapter, any party at interest
19 may petition the commissioner in writing for a hearing and award. The petition shall be sent to the
20 commissioner at the department's offices in Concord and shall set forth the reasons for requesting
21 the hearing and the questions in dispute which the applicant expects to be resolved. The
22 commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative shall schedule a hearing, either in
23 Concord or at a location nearest the employee as determined by the commissioner, by fixing its time
24 and place and giving notice at least 14 days prior to the date for which it is scheduled. The hearing
25 date shall be set for a time not to exceed 6 weeks from the date the petition was received. In those
26 instances where an expedited hearing is requested, the petition for hearing shall set forth the facts
27 in sufficient detail to support the request for an expedited hearing. The commissioner, or his or her
28 authorized agent shall, in his or her discretion, determine whether the need exists for an expedited
29 hearing. Any requests for an expedited hearing shall be periodically reviewed by the commissioner
30 to determine whether such requests are given proper attention. The commissioner shall also identify
31 any overutilization by the requesting parties and responses given to such requests by the
32 commissioner. An annual report of the expedited requests, responses, the number of continuances,
33 the reasons for such continuances, the number of requests for hearing, and the time within which
34 the hearings were held shall be made annually to the advisory council established in RSA 281-A:62.
35 The notice may be given in hand [~~or by certified mail, return receipt requested~~], ***via first class
36 mail, or, upon consent of the parties, by electronic transmission.*** Continuances of any hearing
37 are discouraged; however, should a continuance be necessary, the parties requesting such

1 continuance shall file with the department a written petition for such continuance at least 7 days
 2 prior to the hearing. Failure to file such a petition shall bar any right to a continuance. Thereafter,
 3 a continuance may only be granted upon the commissioner's finding that a compelling need exists so
 4 as to require a continuance. At such hearing, it shall be incumbent upon all parties to present all
 5 available evidence and the person conducting the hearing shall give full consideration to all evidence
 6 presented. In addition, the person conducting the hearing shall freely and comprehensively examine
 7 all witnesses to determine the merits of the matter. Also, the person conducting the hearing may
 8 recess the hearing to a date certain and direct the parties, or either of them, to provide such further
 9 information that may be necessary to decide the matter. No later than 30 days after the hearing, the
 10 commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative shall render a decision and shall
 11 forthwith notify the parties of it. When appropriate, the commissioner, or his or her authorized
 12 representative, may render a decision at the hearing. Unless excused for good cause shown, **or a**
 13 **party has not received notice**, failure of any or all parties at interest to appear at a duly scheduled
 14 hearing or to petition for a continuance shall bar such parties from any further action concerning an
 15 adverse decision, a decision by default, or a dismissal of a petition for hearing and award. **The**
 16 **commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, shall serve notice of a pending**
 17 **default, default decision, or dismissal of a petition for hearing and award on the**
 18 **defaulting party via certified mail, return receipt requested. Upon receipt of undeliverable**
 19 **certified mail, the commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, shall stay the**
 20 **proceedings for up to one year from the date of the receipt of undeliverable certified mail**
 21 **during which time the commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, shall make**
 22 **all reasonable attempts to provide notice to the defaulting party. If notice cannot be**
 23 **provided within one year, the commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, shall**
 24 **render a decision in favor of the non-defaulting party.**

25 128 Apprenticeship Programs in Trade and Industry. Amend RSA 278:1-278:10 to read as
 26 follows:

27 278:1 Purposes. The purposes of this chapter are:

28 I. To encourage employers, associations of employers and organizations of employees to
 29 voluntarily establish apprenticeship programs and the making of apprenticeship agreements;

30 II. To create opportunities for young people to obtain employment and adequate training in
 31 trades and industry with parallel instructions in related and supplementary education under
 32 conditions that will equip them for profitable employment and citizenship;

33 III. To cooperate with the promotion and development of apprenticeship programs and
 34 systems in other states and with the federal committee on apprenticeship appointed under Public
 35 Law No. 308-75th U.S. Congress (Fitzgerald Act);

1 IV. To ~~[recommend to the Office of Apprenticeship, United States Department of Labor~~
2 ~~(OA)]~~ **encourage** the registration and approval of apprenticeship programs and apprenticeship
3 agreements ~~[and the issuance of state certificates of completion of apprenticeship].~~

4 278:2 Apprenticeship Council. There is hereby created a state apprenticeship advisory council
5 (the council), composed of: the labor commissioner or designee, the commissioner of the department
6 of employment security or designee, the commissioner of the department of education or designee, a
7 member representing the community college system of New Hampshire appointed by the chancellor
8 of the community college system, and 2 members who shall be employers and 2 members who shall
9 be employees or persons who represent said employees. The commissioner of labor, or designee,
10 shall act as chairman. The 2 members who are employers and the 2 members who are employees or
11 who represent said employees shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the
12 council. The initial appointment of these 4 members shall be as follows: one member for a term of
13 one year, one member for a term of 2 years, one member for a term of 3 years, and one member for a
14 term of 4 years. Upon the expiration of each of their terms and each year thereafter, one new
15 member shall be appointed for a term of 4 years. The members of the council shall receive no
16 compensation for their services.

17 278:3 Duties. The council shall meet ~~[quarterly and]~~ as often as may be necessary, and in
18 cooperation with the OA and state departments of education and labor, ~~[establish, maintain, and~~
19 ~~review and recommend approval of]~~ **encourage** consistent standards for on-the-job training
20 programs to be coordinated with related course instruction and included in apprenticeship programs
21 and agreements established in trade or industry by employee organizations, joint employee-employer
22 committees, employers or employer groups; and may request the services of any state or federal
23 agency or department which may be of assistance in carrying out the purposes of this chapter. In
24 addition to the foregoing, the council shall:

25 I. Encourage and promote the development of apprenticeship programs and the making of
26 apprenticeship agreements;

27 II. Assist the OA in bringing about the settlement of differences arising out of an
28 apprenticeship agreement when such differences cannot be adjusted locally or in accordance with
29 established trade procedure;

30 III. ~~[Supervise the execution of agreements and maintenance of standards;~~

31 ~~IV.]~~ Recommend to the OA the registration of apprenticeship programs and agreements
32 which provide equal opportunity for training and employment without regard to race, color, creed or
33 national origin and which incorporate standards consistent with those already established and
34 approved by the council and the OA, or terminate or cancel the registration of apprenticeship
35 programs and agreements when said programs or agreements fail to meet or maintain said
36 registration qualifications;

37 ~~[V. Issue certificates of completion of apprenticeship as shall be authorized by the council;~~

1 ~~VI. Keep a record of apprenticeship programs and apprentice agreements and their~~
2 ~~disposition;~~

3 ~~VII.] IV.~~ Cooperate with the state department of education and the local school authorities
4 in the organization and establishment of classes of related and supplemental instruction for
5 apprentices employed under approved agreements;

6 ~~[VIII.] V.~~ Render such assistance and submit such information and data as may be
7 requested by employers, employees and joint apprenticeship committees engaged in the formulation
8 and operation of programs of apprenticeship, particularly in regard to work schedules, wages,
9 conditions of employment, apprenticeship records and number of apprentices; and

10 ~~[IX.] VI.~~ Review and assist the OA in the adoption of rules and regulations to insure
11 nondiscrimination in all phases of apprenticeship and employment during apprenticeship.

12 278:3-a Personnel. For the purpose of carrying out administrative duties the council may employ
13 assistants and clerical personnel as are necessary, who work under the general supervision of the
14 labor commissioner.

15 278:4 Transfer to Department of Labor. The apprenticeship advisory council as provided in RSA
16 278:2 shall function within the department of labor as a separate organizational entity, as heretofore
17 constituted, and with all the powers and duties as heretofore provided.

18 278:5 Biennial Report. The council ~~[shall]~~ **may** biennially make a report of its activities and
19 progress to the governor and council and the report ~~[shall]~~ **may** also be contained in the biennial
20 report of the department of labor.

21 278:6 Related and Supplemental Instruction. Related and supplemental instruction for
22 apprentices, coordination of instruction with work experiences, and the selection of teachers and
23 coordinators for such instruction shall be the responsibility of state and local boards of education.
24 The state department of education shall be responsible and make provision subject to the
25 department's decision on the allotment of its funds for related and supplementary instruction for
26 apprentices as may be employed under apprenticeship programs registered and approved by the OA
27 ~~[and the council]~~.

28 278:7 Local, Regional and State Joint Apprenticeship Committees. Local and state joint
29 apprenticeship committees may be approved, in any trade or group of trades, in cities, regions of the
30 state or trade areas, by the OA ~~[and the council]~~, whenever the apprentice training needs of such
31 trade or group of trades or such regions justify such establishment. Such local, regional or state joint
32 apprenticeship committees shall be composed of an equal number of employer and employee
33 representatives selected by the respective local or state employer and employee organizations in such
34 trade or group of trades; also such advisory members representing local boards or other agencies as
35 may be deemed advisable. In a trade or group of trades in which there is no bona fide employer or
36 employee organization, a joint committee may be composed of persons known to represent the
37 interests of employers and of employees respectively, or a state joint apprenticeship committee may

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1 be approved as, or the council may act itself as, the joint committee in such trade or group of trades.
2 Subject to the review of the OA [~~and the council~~], and in accordance with the standards established
3 by the Office of Apprenticeship [~~and the council~~], such committees may devise standards for
4 apprenticeship agreements and give such aid as may be necessary in their operation, in their
5 respective trades and localities.

6 ~~[278:8—Minimum Standards for Apprenticeship Agreements.—All apprenticeship agreements~~
7 ~~submitted for approval and registration shall meet the following minimum standards:~~

8 ~~I. A statement of the trade or craft to be taught and the required hours for completion of the~~
9 ~~apprenticeship shall be established by agreement under RSA 278:3 and 278:7, but in no case shall it~~
10 ~~be less than 2000 hours.~~

11 ~~II. A statement of the processes in the trade or craft divisions in which the apprentice is to~~
12 ~~be taught and the approximate amount of time to be spent at each process;~~

13 ~~III. A statement of the number of hours to be spent by the apprentice in work and the~~
14 ~~number of hours to be spent in related and supplemental instruction which instruction shall be not~~
15 ~~less than 144 hours per year;~~

16 ~~IV. A statement that apprentices shall be not less than 16 years of age;~~

17 ~~V. Provision for a period of probation, not exceeding 6 months or 1,000 hours, during which~~
18 ~~period, the council shall terminate or cancel the registration of an apprenticeship agreement at the~~
19 ~~request in writing of any party thereto. After the probationary period, the apprenticeship advisory~~
20 ~~council shall terminate or cancel the registration of an apprenticeship agreement upon request in~~
21 ~~writing of both parties or upon just cause shown;~~

22 ~~VI. Provision for "an increasing schedule of wages" which shall average, over the required~~
23 ~~hours or years for completion, not less than approximately 1/2 of the journeyman's rate;~~

24 ~~VII. Provision that the services of the apprenticeship advisory council may be utilized for~~
25 ~~consultation regarding the settlement of differences arising out of the apprenticeship agreement~~
26 ~~where such differences cannot be adjusted locally or in accordance with the established trade~~
27 ~~procedure;~~

28 ~~VIII. Provision that if an employer is unable to fulfill his or her obligations under the~~
29 ~~apprenticeship agreement he or she may arrange for the transfer of the agreement to another~~
30 ~~employer after consent by the apprentice and approval by the OA and the council and the new~~
31 ~~employer;~~

32 ~~IX. A statement as to the ratio of apprentices to journeymen or number of apprentices to be~~
33 ~~employed during any year under the program. Where the apprenticeship standards provide for a~~
34 ~~workforce ratio of one apprentice for one journeyman for the first 5 apprentices and 3 additional~~
35 ~~journeymen for each additional apprentice thereafter, no standard shall have the effect of requiring~~
36 ~~the employment of any greater number of journeymen per apprentice;~~

1 ~~X. Provision for the granting of credit to apprentices for previous work experience or related~~
2 ~~and supplemental training; and~~

3 ~~XI. Provision for supervision and the keeping of records.~~

4 ~~278:9 Apprenticeship Agreements Defined. For the purposes of this chapter an~~
5 ~~apprenticeship agreement is an individual written agreement between an employer and an~~
6 ~~apprentice, or a written agreement between an apprentice and an association of employers, or an~~
7 ~~organization of employees, or where an approved joint committee exists, a written agreement~~
8 ~~between an apprentice and such committee.~~

9 ~~278:10]~~ 278:8 Applicability of Chapter. The provisions of this chapter shall apply to a person,
10 firm, corporation or organization of employees or an association of employers only after such person,
11 firm, corporation or organization of employees or association of employers has voluntarily elected to
12 conform with its provisions.

13 129 Unemployment Compensation; Contributions; Minimum Rate. Amend RSA 282-A:82, II-III
14 to read as follows:

15 II. There shall be subtracted in any calendar quarter from every employer's contribution
16 rate one percent whenever the unemployment compensation fund equals or exceeds [~~\$275,000,000~~]
17 **\$350,000,000** throughout the next preceding calendar quarter.

18 III. There shall be subtracted in any calendar quarter from every employer's contribution
19 rate 1.5 percent whenever the unemployment compensation fund equals or exceeds [~~\$300,000,000~~]
20 **\$400,000,000** throughout the next preceding calendar quarter.

21 130 Unemployment Compensation; Contributions; Inverse Minimum Rate. Amend RSA 282-
22 A:82-a, II-III to read as follows:

23 II. There shall be added in any calendar quarter to every such employer's contribution rate
24 one percent whenever the unemployment compensation fund fails to equal or exceed [~~\$275,000,000~~]
25 **\$350,000,000** throughout the next preceding calendar quarter.

26 III. There shall be added in any calendar quarter to every such employer's contribution rate
27 .5 percent whenever the unemployment compensation fund fails to equal or exceed [~~\$300,000,000~~]
28 **\$400,000,000** throughout the next preceding calendar quarter.

29 131 Repeal. The following are repealed:

30 I. RSA 282-A:84, relative to emergency power of the commissioner of the department of
31 unemployment security.

32 II. RSA 282-A:84-a, relative to the emergency surcharge power of the commissioner of the
33 department of unemployment security.

34 132 Liability for Obstruction or Injury to Highway; Civil Liability. Amend RSA 236:39 to read
35 as follows:

36 236:39 Civil Liability.

1 I. If any person, without authority, shall place any obstruction in a highway, or cause any
2 defect, insufficiency, or want of repair of a highway which renders it unsuitable for public travel, he
3 or she shall be strictly liable to the state for all damages to the highway, including full and current
4 replacement costs of protective barriers, and any structure or device that is part of the highway or
5 turnpike system, when maintained by the state, or to the municipality for all damages to a highway,
6 including full and current replacement costs of protective barriers and any structure or device that is
7 part of the highway, when maintained by the municipality, and for all damages and costs which the
8 state or municipality shall be compelled to pay to any person injured by such obstruction, defect,
9 insufficiency, or want of repair as established through an appropriate contribution claim or under
10 the rules of joint and several liability.

11 **II. "Full and current replacement cost" as used in this section means actual or**
12 **reasonable estimates of labor, including contracted labor, material, equipment, and**
13 **overhead. Such costs shall not be reduced for depreciation.**

14 133 Repeal. 1959; 286, relative to the Sandwich Notch and Dale Road in the towns of Sandwich
15 and Thornton, is repealed.

16 134 Department of Transportation; Disposal of Highway or Turnpike Funded Real Estate.
17 Amend the section heading for RSA 4:39-c to read as follows:

18 4:39-c Disposal of Highway, **Federal**, or Turnpike Funded Real Estate.

19 135 Department of Transportation; Disposal of Highway or Turnpike Funded Real Estate.
20 Amend RSA 4:39-c, III to read as follows:

21 **III. The proceeds from a sale, conveyance, transfer, or lease under this section shall be**
22 **credited to either the highway fund, *restricted federal fund*, or the turnpike fund, whichever fund**
23 **provided money for the original purchase. *Proceeds from a sale that results from money***
24 ***provided by the highway fund for payback of real property purchased with federal funds***
25 ***shall be credited to the department and shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated***
26 ***to the department for the purposes of meeting federal obligations or reimbursing the***
27 ***highway fund for payment of federal obligations.***

28 136 New Paragraphs; New Hampshire Aeronautics Act; Definitions. Amend RSA 422:3 by
29 inserting after paragraph XXVII the following new paragraphs:

30 XXVII-a. "Small unmanned aircraft" means an unmanned aircraft as defined in federal
31 regulations, as amended.

32 XXVII-b. "Small unmanned aircraft system" means a small unmanned aircraft and its
33 associated elements as defined in federal regulations, as amended.

34 137 New Paragraph; New Hampshire Aeronautics Act; Definitions. Amend RSA 422:3 by
35 inserting after paragraph XXIX the following new paragraph:

36 XXX. "Unmanned aircraft" means an aircraft as defined in federal regulations, as amended.

1 138 New Hampshire Aeronautics Act; Duties of the Commissioner. Amend RSA 422:4, VI to
2 read as follows:

3 VI. Effecting uniformity in the regulations pertaining to the operation of aircraft by
4 adopting uniform rules consistent with federal regulations and making noncompliance with federal
5 regulations a violation of state law, thereby enabling the law enforcement agencies of the state to
6 enforce the laws regulating the operation of aircraft. For the purposes of this paragraph, aircraft
7 shall include ultralight vehicles [~~as defined in 14 C.F.R. part 103~~] **as defined in federal**
8 **regulations, as amended, and small unmanned aircraft systems as defined in RSA 422:3,**
9 **XXVII-b.**

10 139 Department of Transportation; Appropriation Amended. Amend 2018;162:25, I to read as
11 follows:

12 I. The sum of \$20,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the department of transportation for the
13 fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, which shall be [~~nonlapsing and~~] expended for the purposes of
14 funding state red list bridge projects **and shall lapse to the highway fund on June 30, 2021.**
15 The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not
16 otherwise appropriated.

17 140 Effective Date. Section 139 of this act shall take effect on June 30, 2021.

18 141 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; Parks Projects; Appropriations. There is
19 hereby appropriated to the department of natural and cultural resources, for the biennium ending
20 June 30, 2023, the following sums which shall be nonlapsing and expended for the following
21 purposes. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the
22 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

23 I. The sum of \$655,000 for the purpose of redevelopment and improvement projects at the
24 Jericho Mountain beach area campground, including RV dump station, 2 new pit toilets, 10 new
25 campsites, 4 new camping cabins, the extension of water utilities to the beach area campground, the
26 extension of electrical utilities to the beach area campground, the winterization of 4 camping cabins,
27 and 4 new trailer sites with water and electricity.

28 II. The sum of \$347,000 for the purpose of electrical upgrade projects at the Hampton RV
29 park, including a service upgrade from 400 amps to 1200 amps, new pedestals at 29 sites, new
30 electrical conductors, excavation for utilities, and the installation of cable and Internet conduits.

31 142 Department of Safety; Fund Transfer; Unfunded Positions; Authorization.

32 I. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 9:16-a, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, the
33 department of safety may transfer funds between accounting units in classes 027-transfers to the
34 department of information technology, 028-transfers to general services, 064-retiree pension benefit
35 health insurance compensation, and 211-property and casualty insurance, upon approval of the
36 department of administrative services' budget office.

1 II. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the department of safety may
2 fill unfunded positions during the biennium ending June 30, 2023, provided that the total
3 expenditure for such positions shall not exceed the amount appropriated for personal services.

4 143 New Section; Body-Worn Cameras. Amend RSA 105-D by inserting after section 2 the
5 following new section:

6 105-D:3 Body-Worn and Dashboard Camera Fund.

7 I. There is hereby established the body-worn and dashboard camera fund within the
8 department of safety for the purpose of encouraging local law enforcement agencies to equip officers
9 with body-worn cameras and agency vehicles with dashboard cameras. All moneys in the fund shall
10 be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the department of safety.

11 II.(a) The fund shall provide matching grants to local law enforcement agencies to assist
12 agencies with the purchase, maintenance, and replacement of body-worn and dashboard cameras
13 and ongoing costs related to the maintenance and storage of data recorded by body-worn and
14 dashboard cameras.

15 (b) The commissioner of the department of safety may also use the fund to pay for the
16 classified position of business administrator I established in the department of safety, division of
17 administration.

18 III. All local law enforcement agencies shall be eligible to apply for grants from the fund.

19 IV. The fund shall be overseen by the commissioner of the department of safety and the
20 attorney general who shall, within 180 days of the effective date of this section, jointly establish a
21 process for the application for matching grants from the fund. Such process shall be established in
22 rules adopted jointly by the commissioner of safety and attorney general in accordance with RSA
23 541-A.

24 V. The commissioner of the department of safety may charge administrative costs related to
25 this section to the fund.

26 144 Body-Worn and Dashboard Camera Fund; Appropriation. The sum of \$1,000,000 for the
27 fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 is hereby appropriated to the body-worn and dashboard camera
28 fund established in RSA 105-D:3. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of
29 any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

30 145 Department of Safety; Position Created. There is hereby established in the department of
31 safety, division of administration, the full-time classified position of business administrator I. The
32 commissioner of the department of safety may use the body-worn and dashboard camera fund
33 established in RSA 105-D:3 to fund the position.

34 146 New Section; Complaints Alleging Law Enforcement Misconduct; Commission Established.
35 Amend RSA 105-D by inserting after section 2 the following new section:

36 105-D:2-a Statewide Entity to Receive Complaints Alleging Misconduct Regarding Sworn and
37 Elected Law Enforcement Officers; Commission Established.

1 I. There is hereby established a commission to develop recommendations for legislation to
2 establish a single, neutral, and independent statewide entity to receive complaints alleging
3 misconduct regarding all sworn and elected law enforcement officers pursuant to recommendation
4 #16 in the final report issued by the New Hampshire commission on law enforcement accountability,
5 community and transparency. The commission shall be composed of the following members:

6 (a) The attorney general, or designee, who shall be the chairperson of the commission. .

7 (b) One member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house.

8 (c) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

9 (d) The director of the New Hampshire police standards and training council, or
10 designee.

11 (e) The commissioner of safety, or designee.

12 (f) Four additional members from the New Hampshire commission on law enforcement
13 accountability, community and transparency established in Executive Order 2020-11. Two of these
14 members shall be law enforcement members and 2 of these members shall not be law enforcement
15 members.

16 II. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
17 attending to the duties of the commission.

18 III. The chairperson of the commission shall call the first meeting within 30 days of the
19 effective date of this section. Four members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

20 IV. The commission shall submit a report containing its recommendations for legislation to
21 the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, and the state
22 library no later than November 1, 2021.

23 147 Appropriation; Statewide Entity to Receive Complaints of Misconduct. The sum of \$100,000
24 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 is hereby appropriated the department of administrative
25 services which shall be available to fund an independent statewide entity to receive complaints
26 alleging misconduct regarding all sworn and elected law enforcement officers established pursuant
27 to recommendation #16 in the final report issued by the New Hampshire commission on law
28 enforcement accountability, community and transparency. Any unexpended amount of said
29 appropriation shall lapse to the general fund on June 30, 2023. The governor is hereby authorized to
30 draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

31 148 Contingency. If an independent statewide entity to receive complaints alleging misconduct
32 regarding all sworn and elected law enforcement officers as a result of recommendation #16 in the
33 final report issued by the New Hampshire commission on law enforcement accountability,
34 community, and transparency becomes law by July 1, 2022, then section 147 of this act shall take
35 effect July 1, 2022. If such an entity does not become law by July 1, 2022, then section 147 of this
36 act shall not take effect.

37 149 Effective Date. Section 147 of this act shall take effect as provided in section 148 of this act.

1 150 Department of Safety; Radio Infrastructure Equipment Purchases; Procurement.

2 I. The department of safety shall, in collaboration with the department of administrative
3 services, establish standards for radio infrastructure-related hardware, computers, software, related
4 licenses, media, documentation, support and maintenance services, and other related services.

5 II. Prior to an agency's issuance of a solicitation for the purchase of radio infrastructure-
6 related computer or radio hardware, software, related licenses, media, documentation, support and
7 maintenance services, and other related services including a request for proposal, request for
8 purchase, or other procurement documentation, the agency shall consult with and seek approval
9 from the department of safety, division of emergency services and communications.

10 III. The department of safety, division of emergency services and communications, shall
11 annually review and set dollar, or other, limits for purchases and contracts that require approval
12 from the director of the division of emergency services and communications before proceeding.

13 IV. For purposes of this section, "agency" shall have the same meaning as in RSA 21-I:11,
14 II(b), but shall not include:

15 (a) The university system of New Hampshire.

16 (b) The court systems.

17 (c) The legislature, secretary of state, and the state reporter.

18 (d) The retirement system.

19 (e) The community college system of New Hampshire.

20 151 New Paragraph; Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; Definitions. Amend RSA 611-B:1 by
21 inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

22 II-a. "Associate medical examiner" means the licensed physician certified by the American
23 Board of Pathology as a qualified pathologist and appointed pursuant to RSA 611-B:3-a.

24 152 New Section; Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; Associate Medical Examiner. Amend
25 RSA 611-B by inserting after section 3 the following new section:

26 611-B:3-a Associate Medical Examiner. There is hereby established within the office of the chief
27 medical examiner the position of associate medical examiner. The associate medical examiner shall
28 be appointed in the same manner as the chief medical examiner as provided in RSA 611-B:2, and
29 shall be a licensed physician, certified by the American Board of Pathology as a qualified pathologist,
30 with training and experience in forensic medicine. The associate medical examiner shall serve under
31 the professional direction and supervision of the chief medical examiner and deputy chief medical
32 examiner and shall act as the chief medical examiner whenever the chief medical examiner and
33 deputy chief medical examiner are absent, or unable to act for any cause.

34 153 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; Acting Chief Medical Examiner. Amend RSA 611-B:4
35 to read as follows:

36 611-B:4 Acting Chief Medical Examiner. The chief medical examiner may designate in writing
37 an acting chief medical examiner who shall be a licensed physician, certified by the American Board

1 of Pathology as a qualified pathologist with training and experience in forensic medicine. The acting
 2 chief medical examiner shall act as the chief medical examiner whenever the chief medical
 3 examiner, [~~and the~~] deputy chief medical examiner, **and the associate medical examiner** are
 4 absent, or unable to act [~~from~~] **for** any cause.

5 154 Department of Justice; Director of Diversity and Community Outreach; Position
 6 Established. There is established within the department of justice an unclassified position of
 7 director of diversity and community outreach. The director of diversity and community outreach
 8 shall be qualified to hold the position by reason of education and experience, and shall be appointed
 9 to serve for a term of 5 years. The position shall assist the attorney general and deputy attorney
 10 general to establish goals and milestones towards creating a more diverse, inclusive, and culturally
 11 aware law enforcement community through efforts that increase equity and cultural awareness
 12 among state, county, local prosecution, law enforcement and diverse communities to foster positive
 13 relationships, understanding and respect. The salary of the director of diversity and community
 14 outreach shall be determined after assessment and review of the appropriate letter grade allocation
 15 in RSA 94:1-a, I for positions which shall be conducted pursuant to RSA 94:1-d and RSA 14:14-c.
 16 Funding shall be appropriated from expenditure class 014 within accounting unit 02-20-20-200010-
 17 2601.

18 155 New Paragraph; Department of Justice; Attorney General Position Established. Amend
 19 RSA 21-M:3 by inserting after paragraph XII the following new paragraph:

20 XIII. The attorney general, subject to the approval of the governor and council, may appoint
 21 a permanent director of diversity and community outreach, within the limits of the appropriation
 22 made for the appointment, who shall hold office for a term of 5 years. Any vacancy in such position
 23 may be filled for the unexpired term. The director of diversity and community outreach may be
 24 removed only as provided by RSA 4:1.

25 156 Effective Date. Sections 154-155 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2023.

26 157 Judicial Council; Expenditures for Termination of Parental Rights Services. In the event
 27 that expenditures for termination of parental rights services are greater than amounts appropriated
 28 in the operating budget, the judicial council may request, with prior approval of the fiscal committee
 29 of the general court, that the governor and council authorize additional funding. For funds
 30 requested and approved, the governor is authorized to draw a warrant from any money in the
 31 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

32 158 College Tuition Savings Plan; Advisory Commission. Amend the introductory paragraph in
 33 RSA 195-H:2, I(a) to read as follows:

34 I.(a) There is established the New Hampshire college tuition savings plan advisory
 35 commission which shall ensure the proper administration and management of the savings plan. The
 36 advisory commission shall ensure that the savings plan complies with the requirements of section
 37 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any related federal law applicable to the

1 savings plan. The commission shall also be responsible for ensuring the proper administration,
2 implementation, and management of the New Hampshire excellence in higher education endowment
3 trust fund established in RSA 6:38, and the governor's scholarship program and fund established in
4 ~~[RSA 4 C:31-34]~~ ***RSA 195-H:11-14. The commission, by a majority vote, may transfer funds***
5 ***between the New Hampshire excellence in higher education endowment trust fund and the***
6 ***governor's scholarship fund.*** The commission shall consist of the following members:

7 159 New Subdivision; Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund. Amend RSA 195-H by
8 inserting after section 10 the following new subdivision:

9 Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund

10 195-H:11 Definitions. In this subdivision:

11 I. "Eligible institution" means a postsecondary educational institution or training program
12 within the university system of New Hampshire as defined in RSA 187-A, a postsecondary
13 educational institution within the community college system of New Hampshire as defined in RSA
14 188-F, or a private postsecondary institution approved to operate in this state that:

15 (a) Is approved by the higher education commission pursuant to RSA 21-N:8-a and
16 accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education; and

17 (b) Is a not-for-profit organization eligible to receive federal Title IV funds.

18 II. "Eligible student" means a first-year, full-time, Pell Grant-eligible student who meets the
19 eligibility and residency requirements of RSA 195-H:13. "First-year" means a student who has never
20 enrolled in an eligible institution.

21 III. "Full-time" means an enrolled student who is carrying an academic course load that is
22 determined to be full-time by the eligible institution based on a standard applicable to all students
23 enrolled in a particular educational program. The student's course load may include any
24 combination of courses, work, research, or special studies that the eligible institution considers
25 sufficient to classify the student as full-time.

26 195-H:12 Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund Established.

27 I. There is hereby established the governor's scholarship program and the governor's
28 scholarship fund. The program and fund shall be administered by the commission. The fund shall
29 be kept distinct and separate from all other funds and shall be used to provide scholarships which a
30 recipient shall apply to the costs of an education at an eligible institution. The funds shall be
31 distributed to an eligible institution based on the number of eligible students awarded a scholarship
32 and upon receipt of a request for reimbursement for such scholarship funds accompanied by
33 appropriate documentation.

34 II. The state treasurer shall credit to the fund any appropriation relating to the governor's
35 scholarship fund made in each fiscal year to the commission. The state treasurer shall invest the
36 fund in accordance with RSA 6:8. Any earnings shall be added to the fund.

1 III. All moneys in the fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the
2 commission for the purposes of this subdivision.

3 IV. The commission may institute promotional programs and solicit and receive cash gifts or
4 other donations for the purpose of supporting educational scholarships from the fund. The
5 commission shall not solicit or accept real property.

6 V. All gifts, grants, and donations of any kind shall be credited to the fund.

7 195-H:13 Eligibility.

8 I. Any person who meets the following requirements shall be an eligible student:

9 (a) A person shall meet the residency requirements of RSA 193:12; be a graduate of a
10 New Hampshire high school, public academy, chartered public school, New Hampshire private
11 preparatory high school, a high school-level home education program as defined in RSA 193-A; have
12 received a New Hampshire high school equivalency certificate; have completed at least 3 years of
13 high school in this state; be pursuing a certificate, associate, or bachelor degree at an eligible
14 institution in this state; and be eligible to receive a Pell grant; or

15 (b) A person shall be a graduate of a preparatory high school outside of this state while a
16 dependent of a parent or legal guardian who is a legal resident of this state and who has custody of
17 the dependent; or

18 (c) A person shall have a parent or guardian who has served in or has retired from the
19 United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard within the last 4 years and is a
20 resident of this state; or

21 (d) A person shall be a graduate of a high school, public academy, chartered public high
22 school, or a high school-level home education program outside of this state but have maintained his
23 or her primary residence in this state for not less than 5 years preceding the date of application for a
24 scholarship.

25 II. A person shall meet the qualifications for academic performance or work experience as
26 established by the commission.

27 III. A person shall not have been adjudicated delinquent or convicted or pled guilty or nolo
28 contendere to any felonies or any second or subsequent alcohol or drug-related offenses under the
29 laws of this or any other state, or under the laws of the United States, except that an otherwise
30 eligible person who has been adjudicated delinquent or has been convicted or pled guilty or nolo
31 contendere to a second or subsequent alcohol or drug-related misdemeanor offense shall be eligible
32 or continue to be eligible for a scholarship after the expiration of one academic year from the date of
33 adjudication, conviction, or plea.

34 195-H:14 Procedures.

35 I. All scholarship funds shall be distributed to the eligible student by the eligible institution.
36 The institution shall include the scholarship in the student's financial aid package and may seek
37 subsequent reimbursement. The state shall provide the reimbursements twice per year to each

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1 eligible institution for the number of eligible students enrolled in the current semester or term who
2 are receiving a scholarship. The institution shall submit the list of scholarship recipients to the
3 commission or its designee no later than November 30 and April 30 of each academic year, and shall
4 be reimbursed within 30 days of submission.

5 II. An eligible student may receive a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 per year provided
6 he or she maintains at least a 2.0 grade point average. An eligible student who earned the New
7 Hampshire scholar designation at the time of high school graduation may receive a scholarship in
8 the amount of \$2,000 per year provided he or she maintains at least a 2.5 grade point average. The
9 eligible institution shall not reduce any merit or need-based grant aid that would have otherwise
10 been provided to the eligible student. An eligible student may receive an annual scholarship for a
11 maximum of 4 years.

12 III. In the event the state does not reimburse the eligible institution for scholarship amounts
13 paid to an eligible student receiving an award, the eligible institution shall agree not to seek
14 additional payments from the eligible student and to absorb the loss of funds without any
15 consequence to the eligible student.

16 IV. The commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to awarding and
17 disbursing scholarship funds to an eligible student enrolled in an eligible institution.

18 V. An eligible student, who initially attends a community college and transfers directly to an
19 eligible institution, without a break in attendance, shall remain an eligible student for a maximum
20 of 4 years of total eligibility.

21 VI. The commission may hire staff or enter into a contract for services or personnel
22 necessary to administer the program.

23 160 Application of Receipts; Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund. Amend RSA 6:12,
24 I(b)(336) to read as follows:

25 (336) Moneys deposited into the governor's scholarship fund established in ~~[RSA 4-~~
26 ~~C:32]~~ ***RSA 195-H:12.***

27 161 Allied Health Professionals; Re-ordering of Definitions. RSA 328-F:2 is repealed and
28 reenacted to read as follows:

29 328-F:2 Definitions. In this chapter:

30 I. "Athletic training" means "athletic training" as defined in RSA 326-G:1, III.

31 II. "Board of directors" means the chairpersons or their appointees of all the governing
32 boards which shall be responsible for the administrative operation of the office of licensed allied
33 health professionals.

34 III. "Genetic counseling" means genetic counseling as defined in RSA 326-K:1.

35 IV. "Governing boards" means individual licensing boards of athletic trainers, occupational
36 therapy assistants, occupational therapists, recreational therapists, physical therapists, physical

1 therapist assistants, respiratory care practitioners, speech-language pathologists and hearing care
2 providers, and genetic counselors.

3 V. "Hearing care providers" mean audiologists and hearing aid dealers as defined in RSA
4 326-F:1.

5 VI. "Occupational therapy" means "occupational therapy" as defined in RSA 326-C:1, III.

6 VII. "Office of licensed allied health professionals" means an agency of multiple governing
7 boards in professions of the allied health field.

8 VIII. "Physical therapy" or "physiotherapy" means "physical therapy" or "physiotherapy" as
9 defined in RSA 328-A:2, IX.

10 IX. "Recreational therapy" means "recreational therapy" as defined in RSA 326-J:1, III.

11 X. "Respiratory care" means "respiratory care" as defined in RSA 326-E:1, X.

12 XI. "Speech-language pathology" means "speech-language pathology" as defined in RSA
13 326-F:1.

14 162 Allied Health Professionals; Governing Boards; Hearing Care Providers. Amend RSA 328-
15 F:3, I to read as follows:

16 I. There shall be established governing boards of athletic trainers, occupational therapists,
17 recreational therapists, respiratory care practitioners, physical therapists, speech-language
18 pathologists, *hearing care providers*, and genetic counselors.

19 163 Allied Health Professionals; Governing Boards; Membership. Amend RSA 328-F:4, I to
20 read as follows:

21 I. Each governing board shall be composed of 5 persons, each to be appointed by the
22 governor with the approval of the council, to a term of 3 years, *except the speech-language*
23 *pathology and hearing care provider governing board which shall be composed of 6*
24 *members, each to be appointed by the governor with the approval of the council, to a term*
25 *of 3 years.* Members shall serve until the expiration of the term for which they have been
26 appointed or until their successors have been appointed and qualified. No board member shall be
27 appointed to more than 2 consecutive terms, provided that for this purpose only a period actually
28 served which exceeds 1/2 of the 3-year term shall be deemed a full term. Any professional members
29 of all governing boards shall maintain current and unrestricted New Hampshire licenses.

30 164 Speech Language Pathology and Hearing Care Provider Governing Board; Membership.
31 Amend RSA 328-F:4, VIII to read as follows:

32 VIII. The speech-language pathology *and hearing care provider* governing board shall
33 consist of 4 licensed speech-language pathologists who have actively engaged in the practice of
34 speech-language pathology in this state for at least 3 years, *one licensed individual in the field*
35 *of hearing care who has actively engaged in the practice*, and one public member. At least
36 one speech-language pathologist shall be employed in an educational setting and at least one
37 employed in a clinical setting.

1 165 New Paragraph; Allied Health Professionals; Governing Boards; Duties; Registration.
2 Amend RSA 328-F:5 by inserting after paragraph I-a the following new paragraph:

3 I-b. Issue initial registrations, conditional initial registrations, renewed registrations,
4 conditionally renewed registrations, reinstated registrations, and conditionally reinstated
5 registrations to businesses who are eligible if authorized to do so by the board's practice act.

6 166 New Paragraph; Allied Health Professionals; Governing Boards; Duties; Businesses.
7 Amend RSA 328-F:5 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

8 II-a. Investigate registered businesses and take necessary disciplinary action against them.

9 167 New Paragraph; Allied Health Professionals; Governing Boards; Rulemaking; Hearing Aid
10 Dealers. Amend RSA 328-F:11 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

11 III. The speech-language pathology and hearing care provider governing board shall adopt
12 rules on eligibility requirements and procedures for the issuance of registrations to hearing aid
13 dealers.

14 168 Allied Health Professionals; Governing Board; Fees. Amend RSA 328-F:15, I to read as
15 follows:

16 I. The board of directors shall establish fees for:

17 (a) The processing of applications for initial and reinstatement of licensure, [~~or~~]
18 certification, **or registration**.

19 (b) Initial licenses, [~~and~~] certifications, **and registrations**.

20 (c) Renewal of licenses, [~~and~~] certifications, **and registrations**.

21 (d) Late filing of applications for license renewal and renewal of certification.

22 (e) Reinstatement of licenses, [~~and~~] certifications, **and registrations**.

23 (f) Transcribing and transferring records.

24 (g) The costs of a hearing by any governing board at which the issue is denial of, or
25 imposition of conditions on, an initial license or certification, including the per diem and mileage of
26 board members attending the hearing and the cost of a shorthand court reporter if one is used to
27 record the hearing.

28 (h) **The registration of hearing aid dealers.**

29 169 Allied Health Professionals; Governing Boards; Initial Licenses, Certifications, and
30 Registrations. Amend RSA 328-F:18, IV to read as follows:

31 IV. Initial licenses, **certifications, and registrations**, including conditional licenses,
32 **certifications, and registrations** that are the first license, **certificate, or registration** issued to
33 the individual **or hearing aid dealer**, and provisional licenses, **certifications, and registrations**
34 shall be:

35 (a) Signed and dated by the chairperson of the governing board issuing them **or his or**
36 **her designee**.

37 (b) Numbered consecutively and recorded.

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1 170 Allied Health Professionals; License Provisions; Renewal. Amend RSA 328-F:19 to read as
2 follows:

3 328-F:19 Renewal.

4 I. Initial licenses and renewals shall be valid for 2 years, except that timely and complete
5 application for license renewal by eligible applicants shall continue the validity of the licenses being
6 renewed until the governing board has acted on the renewal application. Licenses issued pursuant
7 to RSA 328-A, RSA 326-G, and RSA 326-J shall expire in even-numbered years and licenses issued
8 pursuant to RSA 326-C, RSA 326-E, RSA 326-F, and RSA 326-K shall expire in odd-numbered years.

9 *I-a. A license issued to a hearing care provider shall expire at 12:01 a.m. on July 1*
10 *of the odd-numbered year next succeeding its date of issuance. The governing board shall*
11 *notify the licensee, on or before May 1 of the renewal year, but failure of any licensee to*
12 *receive this notification shall not relieve him or her of the obligation to comply with the*
13 *rules of the governing board and this section. Timely submission of renewal applications*
14 *shall be evidenced by postmark or, for applications delivered by hand, by date stamp or*
15 *other record made at the time of delivery.*

16 II. Each governing board shall renew the licenses of applicants who meet the eligibility
17 requirements and complete the application procedure.

18 III. Applicants *whose licenses expire on December 31 of the renewal year* shall submit
19 completed applications for renewal on or before December 1 of the renewal year. Completed
20 renewal applications submitted between December 2 and December 31 of the renewal year shall be
21 accompanied by a late filing fee. Licenses shall lapse when completed renewal applications have not
22 been filed by December 31 of the renewal year, and their holders are not authorized to practice until
23 the licenses have been reinstated.

24 IV. The governing boards shall provide licensees *whose licenses expire on December 31*
25 *of the renewal year*, on or before November 1 of their renewal years, with materials needed to
26 complete their renewal applications, but failure of any licensees to receive these materials shall not
27 relieve them of the obligation to comply with the rules of the governing boards and this section.
28 Timeliness of submission of renewal applications shall be evidenced by postmark or, for applications
29 delivered by hand, by date stamp or other record made at the time of delivery.

30 V. Upon the request of a licensee who is a member of any reserve component of the armed
31 forces of the United States or the national guard and is called to active duty, the governing board
32 shall place the person's license on inactive status. The license may be reactivated within one year of
33 the licensee's release from active status by payment of the renewal fee and with proof of completion
34 of the most current continuing education requirement unless still within the renewal period.

35 171 Allied Health Professionals; License Provisions; Obligation to Report. Amend RSA 328-
36 F:25, I and II to read as follows:

1 I. Persons and entities regulated by the state, including but not limited to, licensees,
2 certified individuals, **registrants**, insurance companies, health care organizations, and health care
3 facilities shall report to the board of directors and the appropriate governing board any criminal
4 conviction of a licensee, ~~[or]~~ certified individual, **registered hearing aid dealer**, or any
5 determination by a regulatory agency indicating that a licensee, ~~[or]~~ certified individual, **or**
6 **registered hearing aid dealer** has violated this chapter or the practice act of his or her governing
7 board. Persons and entities so reporting shall be immune from civil liability if the report is made in
8 good faith.

9 II. Every individual, agency, facility, institution or organization regulated by the state and
10 employing licensed allied health professionals **or using the services of a registered hearing aid**
11 **dealer** within the state shall report to the appropriate governing board within 30 days any act by an
12 individual licensed or certified by the board that appears to constitute misconduct. Persons and
13 entities so reporting shall be immune from civil liability if the report is made in good faith.

14 172 Allied Health Professionals; Unauthorized Practice. Amend RSA 328-F:27, II to read as
15 follows:

16 II. Practice of an allied health profession by any person who is not licensed ~~[or]~~, certified, **or**
17 **registered** to practice such profession shall constitute unauthorized practice. A business which
18 holds itself out, through advertising or in any other way, as providing an allied health service but
19 does not have available to supervise its services an allied health professional licensed ~~[or]~~, certified,
20 **or registered** to provide the services which the business purports to offer, is engaged in
21 unauthorized practice.

22 173 Speech Language Pathology Practice. Amend the chapter heading of RSA 326-F to read as
23 follows:

24 CHAPTER 326-F

25 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY **AND HEARING CARE PROVIDERS** PRACTICE

26 174 Speech-Language Pathology and Hearing Care Providers Practice; Definitions. RSA 326-
27 F:1 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

28 326-F:1 Definitions. In this chapter and RSA 328-F:

29 I. "Audiologist" means any person who renders or offers to render to the public any service
30 involving the application of principles, methods, and procedures for the measurement of testing,
31 identification, appraisal, consultation, counseling, instruction, and research related to the
32 development and disorders of hearing and vestibular function for the purpose of diagnosing,
33 designing, and implementing programs for the amelioration of such disorders and conditions.

34 II. "Audiology" means the application of principles, methods, and procedures related to the
35 development and disorders of human communication, which disorders shall include any and all
36 conditions whether of organic or nonorganic origin, that impede the normal processes of human

1 communication and balance including, but not limited to, disorders of hearing, vestibular function,
2 and central auditory processing.

3 III. "Board" means the governing board of speech-language pathologists and hearing care
4 providers established in RSA 328-F.

5 IV. "Hearing aid" means any wearable instrument or device designed for or offered for the
6 purpose of or represented as aiding or compensating for impaired human hearing and any parts or
7 attachments, including ear molds, but excluding batteries and cords or accessories thereto, or
8 equipment, devices, and attachments used in conjunction with services provided by a public utility
9 company.

10 V. "Hearing aid dealer" means any person engaged in the testing of human hearing for the
11 purpose of selecting, fitting, or otherwise dealing in hearing aids.

12 VI. "Otolaryngologist" means a physician licensed in the state of New Hampshire who
13 specializes in medical problems of the ear, nose, and throat, and is eligible for qualification by the
14 American Board of Otolaryngology as an otolaryngologist.

15 VII. "Practice of audiology" means, but shall not be limited to:

16 (a) Screening, identifying, assessing, interpreting, diagnosing, rehabilitating, and
17 preventing hearing disorders.

18 (b) Rendering to individuals or groups of individuals, who are suspected of having
19 hearing disorders, basic and comprehensive audiological and vestibular site-of-lesion tests, including
20 otoscopic examinations, electrophysiologic test procedures, and auditory evoked assessment.

21 (c) Rendering basic and comprehensive auditory and vestibular habilitative and
22 rehabilitative services, including aural rehabilitative assessment and therapy, vestibular
23 rehabilitative assessment and therapy, and speech and language screening.

24 (d) Providing basic and comprehensive audiological and psychoacoustic evaluations for
25 the purpose of determining candidacy for amplification or assistive alerting/listening devices;
26 providing tinnitus evaluations and therapy; providing hearing aid fitting and orientation; taking ear
27 impressions; and providing hearing aid product dispensing, repair, and modification.

28 (e) Providing preoperative evaluation and selection of cochlear implant candidacy and
29 post-implant rehabilitation.

30 (f) Providing occupational hearing conservation.

31 VIII. "Practice of speech-language pathology" means, but shall not be limited to:

32 (a) Screening, identifying, assessing, interpreting, diagnosing, rehabilitating, and
33 preventing disorders of speech and language.

34 (b) Screening, identifying, assessing, interpreting, diagnosing, and rehabilitating
35 disorders of oral-pharyngeal function and related disorders.

36 (c) Screening, identifying, assessing, interpreting, diagnosing, and rehabilitating
37 cognitive communication disorders.

1 (d) Assessing, selecting, and developing augmentative and alternative communication
2 systems and providing training in their use.

3 (e) Providing aural rehabilitation and related counseling services to deaf or hard of
4 hearing individuals and their families.

5 (f) Enhancing speech-language proficiency and communication effectiveness.

6 (g) Screening of hearing and other factors for the purpose of speech-language evaluation
7 or the initial identification of individuals with other communication disorders.

8 IX. "Rental or selling of hearing aids" means the selection, adaptation, and sale or rental of
9 hearing aids. Also included is the making of impressions for ear molds and instruction pertaining to
10 the use of hearing aids.

11 X. "Sell" or "sale" means any transfer of title or of the right of use by sale, conditional sales
12 contract, lease bailments, hire-purchase or any other means, excluding wholesale transactions of
13 dealers and distributors.

14 XI. "Speech-language assistant" means any person certified by the board who meets
15 minimum qualifications established by the board which are less than those established by this
16 chapter as necessary for licensing as a speech-language pathologist, and who does not act
17 independently but works under the direction and supervision of a speech-language pathologist
18 licensed under this chapter.

19 XII. "Speech-language pathologist" means any person who renders or offers to render to the
20 public any service involving the application of principles, methods, and procedures for the
21 measurement of testing, identification, appraisal, consultation, counseling, instruction and research
22 related to the development and disorders of speech, voice, or language for the purpose of diagnosing,
23 designing, and implementing programs for the amelioration of such disorders and conditions.

24 XIII. "Speech-language pathology" means the application of principles, methods, and
25 procedures related to the development and disorders of human communication, which disorders shall
26 include any and all conditions whether of organic or nonorganic origin, that impede the normal
27 process of human communication including, but not limited to, disorders and related disorders of
28 speech, articulation, fluency, voice, verbal and written language, auditory comprehension, cognition,
29 communication, swallowing, and oral, pharyngeal or laryngeal sensorimotor competencies.

30 175 New Paragraph; Speech Language Pathology and Hearing Care Providers Practice;
31 Eligibility for Initial Licensure. Amend RSA 326-F:3 by inserting after paragraph II the following
32 new paragraph:

33 III. To be eligible for initial licensure as an audiologist an applicant shall:

34 (a) Demonstrate sufficient evidence of good professional character and reliability to
35 satisfy the board that the applicant shall faithfully and conscientiously avoid professional
36 misconduct and otherwise adhere to the requirements of this chapter.

1 (b) Possess at least a master's degree in audiology from an educational institution
2 approved by the board which consists of course work approved pursuant to rules adopted by the
3 board pursuant to RSA 541-A.

4 (c) Complete a supervised postgraduate professional experience at an educational
5 institution or its cooperation programs, approved pursuant to rules adopted by the board pursuant to
6 RSA 541-A.

7 (d) Pass an examination specified by the board in rules adopted under RSA 541-A.

8 (e) Complete a supervised postgraduate professional experience.

9 (f) If applicable, submit proof of licensure in another state in which the licensure
10 requirements are equivalent to or greater than those in this chapter.

11 176 New Paragraph; Speech Language Pathology and Hearing Care Providers Practice;
12 Rulemaking. Amend RSA 326-F:5 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

13 VIII. The sale and fitting of hearing aids.

14 177 Speech Language Pathology and Hearing Care Providers Practice; Eligibility for Renewal of
15 Licenses. Amend RSA 326-F:6, I to read as follows:

16 I. ***For speech-language pathologists***, have completed 30 hours of continuing education
17 which meet the requirements established by the board through rulemaking pursuant to RSA 541-A
18 and at least 50 percent of which are directly related to the practice of speech-language pathology.
19 ***For audiologists***, have completed 20 hours of continuing education which meet the
20 requirements established by the board through rulemaking pursuant to RSA 541-A.

21 178 New Paragraphs; Speech-Language Pathology and Hearing Care Providers Practice;
22 Professional Identification. Amend RSA 326-F:8 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new
23 paragraphs:

24 V. No person shall practice audiology or represent oneself as an audiologist in this state,
25 unless such person is licensed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

26 VI. No person shall represent oneself or use the following words to represent oneself:
27 audiologist, audiology, audiometry, audiometrist, audiological, audiometrics, hearing therapy,
28 hearing therapist, hearing clinic, hearing aid audiologist, or any other variation or synonym which
29 expresses, employs, or implies these terms or functions unless the person has been duly licensed as
30 an audiologist.

31 179 New Sections; Registration of Hearing Aid Dealers; Temporary Licensure for Audiologists;
32 Audiologists From Other Jurisdictions; Disclosure to Customers; Unsolicited Home Sales Prohibited;
33 Return of Hearing Aid; Deceptive Advertising Prohibited. Amend RSA 326-F by inserting after
34 section 8 the following new sections:

35 326-F:9 Registration of Hearing Aid Dealers Required. No person shall engage in the business
36 of selling or offering for rent hearing aids unless such person is registered in accordance with this
37 chapter and unless the registration of such person is current and valid. The fee for an initial

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1 registration under this section shall not exceed \$300. This section includes the selling or renting of
2 hearing aids by mail in this state by a person outside the state. Registration certificates shall be
3 renewed biennially on or before June 30 upon payment of a renewal fee.

4 326-F:10 Temporary Licensure for Audiologists.

5 I. A temporary license may be granted for up to 120 days to a person who has moved to this
6 state from another jurisdiction, if the person holds an audiologist's license in the other jurisdiction
7 and the other jurisdiction's requirements for licensure are greater than or equal to the requirements
8 in this state, and the person has applied for a license under this chapter.

9 II. A temporary license issued under this section shall expire no later than 120 days after
10 issuance. The date shall be stated on the license.

11 326-F:11 Audiologists From Other Jurisdictions; Licensure. The board may waive licensure
12 requirements for an applicant who:

13 I. Is licensed by another jurisdiction where the requirements for licensure are greater than
14 or equal to those required in this state; and

15 II. Is practicing audiology 20 days or less in New Hampshire in any calendar year.

16 326-F:12 Hearing Aid Dealer and/or Audiologist Disclosure to Customers.

17 I. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist shall sell a hearing aid without presenting the
18 purchaser an itemized receipt, which shall include the following:

19 (a) The name and address and signature of the purchaser.

20 (b) The date of the sale.

21 (c) The name and the regular place of business of the hearing aid dealer or dealer's
22 registration number or of the audiologist or audiologist's license number, and signature of the
23 registrant or licensee.

24 (d) The make, model, serial number, and purchase price of the hearing aid and the
25 terms of the warranty.

26 (e) An itemization of the total purchase price, including but not limited to the cost of the
27 aid, ear mold, and batteries and other accessories and any other services.

28 (f) A statement as to whether the hearing aid is "new," "used" or "reconditioned."

29 (g) The complete terms of the sale, including a clear and precise statement of the 30-day
30 money back guarantee required under RSA 326-F:14.

31 (h) The name, address and telephone number of the consumer protection and antitrust
32 bureau, division of public protection, department of justice, with a statement that complaints which
33 arise with respect to the transaction may be submitted in writing to the consumer protection and
34 antitrust bureau.

35 (i) The following statements in 10 point type or larger: 1) "This hearing aid will not
36 restore normal hearing nor will it prevent further hearing loss;" 2) "You have the right to cancel this
37 purchase or rental for any reason within 30 days after receiving the hearing aid."

1 II. Each registrant or licensee shall keep records of every customer to whom such person
2 renders services or sells hearing aids, including a copy of the receipt as specified under paragraph I,
3 a record of services provided, any correspondence to or from a customer and any records required
4 under the rules for the hearing aid industry as promulgated by the United States Federal Trade
5 Commission on July 20, 1965, or as amended, or any rules for the hearing aid industry promulgated
6 by the United States Food and Drug Administration. These records shall be preserved for at least 3
7 years after the date of transaction.

8 326-F:13 Unsolicited Home Sales Prohibited. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist, employee or
9 agent thereof, shall canvass either in person or by telephone from house to house for the purpose of
10 selling or renting a hearing aid without prior request from the prospective customer, a relative or
11 friend of the prospective customer.

12 326-F:14 Return of Hearing Aid; Cancellation Fee. No hearing aid shall be sold to any person
13 unless accompanied by a 30-day written money back guarantee that if the person returns the
14 hearing aid in the same condition, ordinary wear and tear excluded, as when purchased, within 30
15 days from the date of delivery, the hearing aid dealer or audiologist may be entitled to a cancellation
16 fee of 5 percent of the purchase price. In computing the actual purchase price, all rebates, discounts,
17 and other similar allowances provided to the seller shall be considered. For the purpose of this
18 section, any consumer who initiates the return of a hearing aid within said 30-day period shall be in
19 compliance with this section. The addressing of any claimed deficiency or return shall be resolved
20 within 90 days from date of delivery.

21 326-F:15 Deceptive Advertising Prohibited.

22 I. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist, or employee or agent thereof, shall use or cause to be
23 used or promote the use of any advertising matter, promotional literature, testimonial, guarantee,
24 warranty, label, brand, insignia, or other representation, however disseminated or published, which
25 is misleading, deceptive, or untruthful. All advertising by mail which offers free hearing testing or
26 other services by a hearing aid dealer or audiologist shall clearly state in such advertising that the
27 offers are made by a hearing aid dealer or audiologist.

28 II. No hearing aid dealer, or employee or agent thereof, shall represent that the services or
29 advice of an individual licensed to practice medicine or of an individual certified as an audiologist
30 will be used or made available in the selection, fitting, adjustment, maintenance, or repair of hearing
31 aids where that is not true; or use or incorporate in any title or designation the words, "doctor,"
32 "otologist," "clinic," "clinical audiologist," "audiologist," "state licensed clinic," "state certified," "state
33 approved," "state registered," "certified hearing aid audiologist," or any term, abbreviation, or symbol
34 which would give the false impression that one is being treated medically or audilogically or that
35 the registrant's services have been recommended by the state.

36 III. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist, or employee or agent thereof, shall use any
37 advertisement or any other representation which has the effect of misleading or deceiving

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1 purchasers or prospective purchasers in the belief that any hearing aid or device, or part or
2 accessory thereof, is a new invention or involves a new mechanical or scientific principle when such
3 is not a fact.

4 IV. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist, or employee or agent thereof, shall state or imply
5 that the use of any hearing aid will restore hearing to normal, or preserve hearing, or prevent or
6 retard the progression of a hearing impairment or make any false or misleading or medically or
7 audiologically unsupportable claims regarding the efficacy or benefits of hearing aids.

8 V. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist, or employee or agent thereof, shall advertise a
9 particular model, type, or kind of hearing aid when the offer is not a bona fide effort to sell the
10 product so offered as advertised.

11 VI. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist, or employee or agent thereof, shall advertise that a
12 hearing aid will be beneficial to persons with hearing loss, regardless of the type of loss. No such
13 dealer, employee, or agent shall advertise that a hearing aid will enable persons with hearing loss to
14 consistently distinguish and understand speech sounds in noisy situations.

15 VII. No hearing aid shall be sold to any person unless the packaging containing the hearing
16 aid carries the following disclaimer in 10 point type or larger: "This hearing aid will not restore
17 normal hearing nor will it prevent further hearing loss."

18 326-F:16 Out-of-State Sales Regulated.

19 I. No person shall conduct or operate a business outside of the state for the sale at retail of
20 hearing aids to individuals within the state unless such business is registered with a permit issued
21 by the board.

22 II. The board shall issue a permit to such out-of-state business if the business discloses and
23 provides proof:

24 (a) That the business is in compliance with all applicable laws and rules in the state in
25 which the business is located;

26 (b) Of the operating locations and the names and titles of all principal corporate officers;

27 (c) That the business complies with all lawful directions and requests for information
28 from the board of all states in which it conducts business; and

29 (d) That the business agrees in writing to comply with all New Hampshire laws and
30 rules relating to the sale or dispensing of hearing aids.

31 III. The board shall assess fees as established by rules adopted by the board, pursuant to
32 RSA 541-A, for out-of-state hearing aid sales companies.

33 180 General Administration of Regulatory Boards and Commissions; Reciprocity Information.

34 Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 332-G:12, I to read as follows:

35 I. All boards or commissions~~[, including the board of hearing care providers established in~~
36 ~~RSA 137-F:3,]~~ shall post information on their website relative to reciprocal licensure or certification
37 for persons holding a current and valid license or certification for the practice of the regulated

1 profession in another state. Such information shall include a list of the states which the board or
2 commission has determined to have license or certification requirements equal to, or greater than,
3 the requirements of this state. The posting shall also list states with which the board or commission
4 has:

5 181 Repeals. The following are repealed:

6 I. RSA 137-F, relative to hearing care providers.

7 II. RSA 310-A:1-a, II(a), relative to hearing care providers.

8 182 Transition; Rules; Hearing Care Providers.

9 I. The rules adopted for hearing care providers under the former RSA 137-F in effect on the
10 effective date of this act shall, to the extent practicable, continue and be effective and apply to
11 hearing care providers until they expire or are amended or repealed.

12 II. Registrations or licenses of hearing care providers under the former RSA 137-F shall be
13 valid until they expire or are revoked or suspended as provided in RSA 326-F as amended by this
14 act.

15 183 New Chapter; Department of Energy. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 12-O the
16 following new chapter:

17 CHAPTER 12-P

18 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

19 12-P:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

20 I. "Commission" means the public utilities commission.

21 II. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of energy.

22 III. "Department" means the department of energy

23 12-P:2 Establishment; Purpose.

24 I. There shall be a department of energy under the executive direction of a commissioner of
25 energy and consisting of the divisions of administration, policy and programs, enforcement, and
26 regulatory support.

27 II. The purpose of this chapter is to improve the administration of state government by
28 providing unified direction of policies, programs, and personnel in the field of energy and utilities,
29 making possible increased efficiency and economies from integrated administration and operation of
30 the various energy and utility related functions of the state government.

31 III. In addition to its other functions, it shall be the duty of the department of energy to
32 provide all necessary administrative, technical, and staff support to the public utilities commission
33 to assist the commission in carrying out its regulatory and adjudicative functions.

34 IV. The department shall have the authority to investigate any matter that may come before
35 the public utilities commission and to appear before the commission to advocate for the department's
36 position and for the purposes of providing a complete record for consideration by the commission.

37 12-P:3 General Provisions.

1 I. Upon the recommendation of the commissioner after consultation with division directors
2 concerned, the governor and council are authorized to approve revisions in internal administrative
3 departmental organization as the governor and council find from time to time may improve or make
4 more economical the administration of the department.

5 II. The department of energy is authorized to work with the department of business and
6 economic affairs and the department of administrative services to coordinate the implementation of
7 the establishment of the department, and to transfer appropriations and create the proper
8 expenditure lines, if needed, for the establishment of their respective operations, including but not
9 limited to the relocation of personnel, work stations, books, papers, personnel record files, and
10 equipment, with the approval of the governor and council and of the director of personnel.

11 12-P:4 Commissioner; Deputy Commissioner; Directors

12 I. The commissioner of the department of energy shall be appointed by the governor, with
13 the consent of the council, and shall serve for a term of 4 years. The commissioner shall be qualified
14 to hold that position by reason of education and experience. Directors of departmental divisions
15 shall be subject to the supervisory authority of the commissioner, which authority shall include
16 power to establish department and divisional policy as well as to control the actual operations of the
17 department and all divisions therein. The commissioner is authorized to establish any advisory
18 committees and programs which the commissioner may deem necessary to carry out the mission and
19 operations of the department.

20 II. The commissioner of energy shall nominate a deputy commissioner of energy for
21 appointment by the governor and council. The deputy commissioner shall hold office for 4 years and
22 until a successor has been appointed and qualified. The deputy commissioner shall be qualified to
23 hold that position by reason of education and experience. The deputy commissioner shall perform
24 such duties as the commissioner may assign. The deputy commissioner shall perform the duties of
25 the commissioner if for any reason the commissioner is unable to do so.

26 III. Division directors shall be appointed to initial terms as stated below, and then
27 subsequently to terms of 4 years. Terms notwithstanding, each division director shall serve until a
28 successor has been appointed and qualified.

29 (a) The commissioner shall nominate for appointment by the governor and council a
30 director of the division of policy and programs for an initial term of one year. All subsequent terms
31 shall be 4 years. The director of the division of policy and programs shall be qualified to hold that
32 position by reason of education and experience.

33 (b) The commissioner shall nominate for appointment by the governor and council a
34 director of the division of administration for an initial term of 2 years. All subsequent terms shall be
35 4 years. The director of the division of administration shall be qualified to hold that position by
36 reason of education and experience.

1 (c) The commissioner shall nominate for appointment by the governor and council a
2 director of the division of enforcement for an initial term of 3 years. All subsequent terms shall be 4
3 years. The director of the division of enforcement shall be qualified to hold that position by reason of
4 education and experience.

5 (d) The commissioner shall nominate for appointment by the governor and council a
6 director of the division of regulatory support for an initial term of 3 years. All subsequent terms
7 shall be 4 years. The director of the division of regulatory support shall be qualified to hold that
8 position by reason of education and experience.

9 IV. The salaries of the commissioner, the assistant commissioner, and each division director
10 shall be as specified in RSA 94:1-a.

11 12-P:5 Duties of Commissioner. In addition to the powers, duties, and functions otherwise
12 vested by law in the commissioner of the department of energy, the commissioner, except as
13 otherwise provided in this chapter, shall:

14 I. Represent the public interest in the administration of the functions of the department of
15 energy and be responsible to the governor, the general court, and the public for such administration.

16 II. Provide for, in consultation with the commissioner of the department of administrative
17 services and the state treasurer, a system of accounts and reports which will ensure the integrity
18 and lawful use of all fees, funds, and revenues collected by the department, the use of which is
19 restricted by state or federal law.

20 III. Have the authority to receive, administer, and internally audit all present and future
21 federal and state energy-related grant programs.

22 IV. Have the authority to adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, necessary to assure the
23 continuance or granting of federal funds or other assistance intended to promote the administration
24 of this chapter, not otherwise provided for by law, and to adopt all rules necessary to implement the
25 specific statutes administered by the department or by any division or unit within the department,
26 whether the rulemaking authority delegated by the legislature is granted to the commissioner, the
27 department, or any administrative unit or subordinate official of the department.

28 V. Have the authority to reorganize rules of the department to conform to the requirements
29 of RSA 541-A and the uniform drafting and numbering system adopted by the division of
30 administrative rules, office of legislative services. Reference changes shall be limited to title,
31 chapter, part, and section designations and numbers and substitution of terms reflecting
32 reorganization of the department to the existing statutory structure, and shall be made subject to
33 review by the division of administrative rules, office of legislative services for consistency and
34 accuracy of such changes. Such reference changes shall be integrated into the rules and such
35 amendments to the rules shall become effective when notice of these reference changes is published
36 by the director of legislative services in the rulemaking register. Reference changes made prior to
37 July 1, 2022, shall be exempt from the procedures and requirements of RSA 541-A. Changes

1 authorized under this section shall not affect the adoption or expiration date of rules changed under
2 this section.

3 VI. Collect and account for all fees, funds, taxes, or assessments levied upon any person
4 subject to the jurisdiction of the department of energy and the public utilities commission.

5 VII. Ensure that the department provides all necessary clerical and technical support to the
6 public utilities commission, the site evaluation committee, office of the consumer advocate, and any
7 other entity that is administratively attached to the department.

8 12-P:6 Division of Administration. There is established within the department the division of
9 administration, under the supervision of an unclassified director of the division of administration.
10 The division, through its officials, shall be responsible for all functions, duties, and responsibilities
11 which may be assigned to it by the commissioner or laws enacted by the general court.

12 12-P:7 Division of Policy and Programs. There is established within the department the division
13 of policy and programs, under the supervision of an unclassified director of the division of policy and
14 programs. The division, through its officials, shall be responsible for all functions, duties, and
15 responsibilities which may be assigned to it by the commissioner or laws enacted by the general
16 court. In addition, the division shall administer fuel assistance contracts and weatherization
17 contracts. In administering fuel assistance and weatherization contracts, the division shall ensure
18 that when an individual applies for fuel assistance or weatherization, the individual shall be
19 provided with application forms and information about the Link-Up New Hampshire and Lifeline
20 Telephone Assistance programs, and shall be provided assistance in applying for these programs.

21 12-P:7-a State Energy Strategy.

22 I. The division of policy and programs, with approval of the commissioner, and with
23 assistance from an independent consultant and with input from the public and interested parties,
24 shall prepare a 10-year energy strategy for the state. The division shall review the strategy and
25 consider any necessary updates in consultation with the senate energy and natural resources
26 committee and the house science, technology and energy committee, after opportunity for public
27 comment, at least every 3 years starting in 2021. The state energy strategy shall include, but not be
28 limited to, sections on the following:

29 (a) The projected demand for consumption of electricity, natural gas, and other fuels for
30 heating and other related uses.

31 (b) Existing and proposed electricity and natural gas generation and transmission
32 facilities, the effects of future retirements and new resources, and consideration of possible
33 alternatives.

34 (c) Renewable energy and fuel diversity.

35 (d) Small-scale and distributed energy resources, energy storage technologies, and their
36 potential in the state.

1 (e) The role of energy efficiency, demand response, and other demand-side resources in
2 meeting the state's energy needs.

3 (f) The processes for siting energy facilities in the state and the criteria used by the site
4 evaluation committee in giving adequate consideration to the protection of the state's ecosystems
5 and visual, historic, and aesthetic resources in siting processes.

6 (g) The relationship between land use and transportation policies and programs on
7 electricity and thermal energy needs in the state.

8 (h) New Hampshire's role in the regional electric markets, how the regional market
9 affects the state's energy policy goals, and how the state can most effectively participate at the
10 regional level.

11 II. The strategy shall include a review of all state policies related to energy, including the
12 issues in paragraph I, and recommendations for policy changes and priorities necessary to ensure
13 the reliability, safety, fuel diversity, and affordability of New Hampshire's energy sources, while
14 protecting natural, historic, and aesthetic resources and encouraging local and renewable energy
15 resources. The strategy shall also include consideration of the extent to which demand-side
16 measures including efficiency, conservation, demand response, and load management can cost-
17 effectively meet the state's energy needs, and proposals to increase the use of such demand resources
18 to reduce energy costs and increase economic benefits to the state.

19 III. The strategy development process shall include review and consideration of relevant
20 studies and plans, including but not limited to those developed by the independent system operator
21 of New England (ISO-NE), the public utilities commission, the energy efficiency and sustainable
22 energy board, legislative study committees and commissions, and other state and regional
23 organizations as appropriate. The strategy shall also include consideration of new technologies and
24 their potential impact on the state's energy future.

25 12-P:7-b Office of Offshore Wind Industry Development Established.

26 I. There is established in the department of energy the office of offshore wind industry
27 development. The office shall be under the supervision of a classified director of the office of offshore
28 wind industry development, who shall serve under the supervision of the commissioner. The
29 director shall provide administrative oversight and ensure that the responsibilities of the office
30 described in this section are fulfilled.

31 II. The office of offshore wind industry development shall:

32 (a) Support the work of the New Hampshire members of the Intergovernmental
33 Renewable Energy Task Force administered by the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
34 (BOEM).

35 (b) Support the work of the offshore wind commission established in RSA 374-F:10.

36 (c) Assist the offshore wind commission to develop and implement offshore wind
37 development strategies including:

- 1 (1) Assessment of port facilities.
- 2 (2) Economic impact analyses.
- 3 (3) Supply chain analyses.
- 4 (4) Outcome and performance measurements.
- 5 (d) Collaborate with key state agencies and partners on offshore wind industry
- 6 development initiatives.
- 7 (e) Coordinate offshore wind industry economic development policy, including:
- 8 (1) Development of workforce.
- 9 (2) Identification of and recruitment of offshore wind development employers.
- 10 (3) Identification and recruitment of offshore wind supply chain employers.
- 11 (4) Promotion of New Hampshire's benefits to the various components of the offshore
- 12 wind industry.
- 13 (5) Provide updates and guidance to the general court with regard to policy and
- 14 funding.

15 12-P:8 Division of Enforcement. There is established within the department the division of
16 enforcement, under the supervision of an unclassified director of the division of enforcement. The
17 division, through its officials, shall be responsible for all functions, duties, and responsibilities which
18 may be assigned to it by the commissioner or laws enacted by the general court.

19 12-P:9 Division of Regulatory Support. There is established within the department the division
20 of regulatory support, under the supervision of an unclassified director of the division of regulatory
21 support. The division, through its officials, shall be responsible for all functions, duties, and
22 responsibilities which may be assigned to it by the commissioner or laws enacted by the general
23 court.

24 12-P:10 Suppliers of Natural Gas and Aggregators of Natural Gas Customers; Rulemaking.

25 I. The department is authorized to adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, establishing
26 requirements for suppliers of natural gas and the aggregators of natural gas customers, including
27 registration of such suppliers and aggregators before soliciting or doing business in the state,
28 registration fees, disclosure of information to customers, standards of conduct, submission to
29 commission jurisdiction for mediation and resolution of disputes, imposition of penalties for failure
30 to comply with commission requirements, and consumer protection and assistance requirements.

31 II. The department of energy shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A which require all natural
32 gas companies to report to the department, the senate president, and the speaker of the house of
33 representatives, in a uniform manner, lost and unaccounted for gas for each year.

34 (a) Such rules shall include a method using operational and billing data to determine the
35 total amount of lost and unaccounted for gas and to identify and measure each of its components.

36 (b) The department may grant waivers from the rules as necessary for the development
37 of innovative projects to reduce lost and unaccounted for gas. Such innovative projects shall be

1 intended to reduce costs to ratepayers and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. An application for a
2 waiver shall include the goals of the innovative project, the expected cost, the expected benefit to
3 ratepayers and the expected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

4 (c) For the purposes of this paragraph, "lost and unaccounted for gas" shall mean an
5 amount of gas that is the difference between the total gas purchased by a gas company and the sum
6 of: (1) total gas delivered to customers; and (2) total gas used by a gas company in the conduct of its
7 operations.

8 III. This section shall not in any way affect the utility or non-utility status of any supplier of
9 natural gas or aggregator of natural gas customers, nor shall it be construed to limit the
10 commission's and the department of energy's existing authority with regard to the regulation of gas
11 utilities or the scope of the commission's and the department's authority in considering whether to
12 expand the availability of competitive natural gas supplies through the distribution system of gas
13 utilities.

14 12-P:11 Specific Answers. The department or the commission may require any public utility or
15 entity subject to its jurisdiction to make specific answers to questions upon which the department or
16 commission may need information.

17 12-P:12 Transfer of Functions, Powers, Duties. All of the functions, powers, duties, records,
18 personnel, and property of the public utilities commission incorporated in the statutes establishing
19 the department of energy and which replace the authority of the commission with the authority of
20 the department of energy, are hereby transferred, as of July 1, 2021, to the department of energy.

21 12-P:13 Authority to Contract for Power. The department of energy is hereby designated as the
22 agency of the state to bargain with the Power Authority of the State of New York for the
23 procurement of power capacity and power output from said power authority and to bargain with the
24 appropriate agencies and officials of Canada or its provinces for the procurement of power capacity
25 and power output therefrom, with the right to contract for the purchase of such power, and resale of
26 such power on a nonprofit basis to the electric distribution companies, cooperative, municipal and
27 privately-owned without preference or discrimination for distribution within the state. The
28 department of energy with the consent of the governor and council is authorized and empowered to
29 enter into contracts for the transmission of such power from the place of purchase to a point, or
30 points, within the state of New Hampshire.

31 12-P:14 Pipeline Operation Safety.

32 I. The department of energy shall apply annually to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
33 Safety Administration of the United States Department of Transportation for authorization to take
34 such actions on its behalf to oversee pipeline operation safety, security, monitoring, and compliance
35 through an inspection process.

36 II. The department of energy shall report annually to the house science, technology, and
37 energy committee prior to October 1 on the status of pipeline safety, new and proposed projects, any

1 deficiency in state law that limits the department's ability to oversee interstate pipelines, or state
2 regulations for pipelines that do not meet the minimum federal standard.

3 12-P:15 Transfer of Rules, Orders, Approvals. Existing rules, orders, and approvals of the
4 public utilities commission which are associated with any functions, powers, and duties, transferred
5 to the department of energy pursuant to RSA 12-P:12 or any other statutory provision, shall
6 continue in effect and be enforced by the commissioner of the department of energy until they expire
7 or are repealed or amended in accordance with applicable law.

8 184 Department of Energy; Interim Commissioner. Until appointment of a commissioner under
9 RSA 12-P:4, the governor may initially designate an interim commissioner to serve for up to 60 days
10 from the effective date of this section.

11 185 Repeals. The following are repealed:

12 I. RSA 4-C, relative to the office of strategic initiatives; the governor's scholarship program
13 and fund, and state demography.

14 II. RSA 4-E, relative to the state energy strategy.

15 III. RSA 6:12, I(b) (79) and (169) relative to office of strategic initiatives revolving funds.

16 IV. RSA 12-O:51 and 52, relative to the office of offshore wind industry development.

17 186 Organization of the Executive Branch. Amend RSA 21-G:6-b, II to read as follows:

18 II. The executive departments are as follows:

19 (a) The department of administrative services.

20 (b) The department of agriculture, markets, and food.

21 (c) The department of banking.

22 (d) The department of business and economic affairs.

23 (e) The department of corrections.

24 (f) The department of education.

25 (g) The department of employment security.

26 **(h) The department of energy.**

27 ~~(h)~~ (i) The department of environmental services.

28 ~~(i)~~ (j) The department of health and human services.

29 ~~(j)~~ (k) The department of information technology.

30 ~~(k)~~ (l) The department of insurance.

31 ~~(l)~~ (m) The department of labor.

32 ~~(m)~~ (n) The department of military affairs and veteran services.

33 ~~(n)~~ (o) The department of natural and cultural resources.

34 ~~(o)~~ (p) The department of revenue administration.

35 ~~(p)~~ (q) The department of safety.

36 ~~(q)~~ (r) The department of transportation.

1 187 Department of Energy; Unclassified Positions Established. The following positions are
 2 hereby established in the department of energy, shall be qualified by reason of education and
 3 experience, and shall be appointed by the commissioner and perform assigned duties according to
 4 applicable law:

5	<u>Labor Grade</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Job Code</u>	<u>Position #</u>
6	GG	Director of Regulatory Support	9U9962	GV008
7	GG	Director of Enforcement	9U9963	GV009
8	GG	Director of Policy & Programs	9U9964	GV010
9	GG	Director of Administration	9U9966	GV012
10	HH	Deputy Commissioner of Energy	9U9967	GV013
11	GG	Utility Analyst IV	9U9969	GV014
12	GG	Utility Analyst IV	9U9970	GV015
13	GG	Utility Analyst IV	9U9971	GV016
14	GG	Utility Analyst IV	9U9972	GV017
15	GG	Utility Analyst IV	9U9973	GV018
16	GG	Utility Analyst IV	9U9974	GV019
17	II	Commissioner of Energy	9U9968	GV020

18 188 New Subdivision; Department of Business and Economic Affairs; Office of Planning and
 19 Development. Amend RSA 12-O by inserting after section 52 the following new subdivision:

20 Office of Planning and Development

21 12-O:53 Office of Planning and Development.

22 I. There is established the office of planning and development within the department of
 23 business and economic affairs. The office of shall be under the supervision of a classified director of
 24 the office of planning and development, who shall serve under the supervision of the commissioner.

25 II. The office of planning and development shall:

26 (a) Plan for the orderly development of the state and the wise management of the state's
 27 resources.

28 (b) Compile, analyze, and disseminate data, information, and research services as
 29 necessary to advance the welfare of the state.

30 (c) Encourage and assist planning, growth management, and development activities of
 31 cities and towns and groups of cities and towns with the purpose of encouraging smart growth.

32 (d) Encourage the coordination and correlation of state planning by agencies of state
 33 government.

34 (e) Participate in interstate, regional, and national planning efforts.

35 (f) Administer federal and state grant-in-aid programs assigned to the office by statute
 36 or executive order.

1 (g) Participate and advise in matters of land use planning regarding water resources
2 and floodplain management.

3 (h) Take a leadership role in encouraging smart growth and preserving farmland, open
4 space land, and traditional village centers.

5 (i) Administer the following programs: the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation
6 plan, the national flood insurance program, and the land conservation investment program. The
7 office shall employ necessary personnel to administer these programs.

8 (j) Perform such other duties as the commissioner may assign.

9 12-O:54 State Development Plan.

10 I. The office of planning and development, under the direction of the commissioner, shall:

11 (a) Assist the commissioner in preparing, publishing, and revising the comprehensive
12 development plan required under RSA 9-A.

13 (b) Coordinate and monitor the planning efforts of various state agencies and
14 departments to ensure that program plans published by such agencies are consistent with the
15 policies and priorities established in the comprehensive development plan.

16 (c) Coordinate and monitor the planning efforts of the regional planning commissions to
17 ensure that the plans published by the commissions are consistent, to the extent practical, with the
18 policies and priorities established in the state development plan.

19 II. In preparing the state development plan, the office of planning and development shall
20 consult with the chief executive officers of the various departments and agencies of state
21 government. The office shall also consult with officials of regional planning commissions and
22 regional and local planning and development agencies, local officials, representatives of the business
23 and environmental community, and the general public.

24 III. All state agencies and departments shall provide the office of planning and development
25 with information and assistance as required by the office to fulfill its responsibilities under
26 paragraph I. The office shall maintain the confidentiality of any information which is protected by
27 law.

28 12-O:55 Data and Information Services. The office of planning and development shall:

29 I. Gather, tabulate, and periodically publish information on the location and pace of
30 development throughout the state, including, but not limited to, population, housing, and building
31 permit data.

32 II. Initiate data coordination procedures as the state agency responsible for coordinating
33 data collection and dissemination among the state, the private sector, and the various political
34 subdivisions.

35 III. Gather information for storage in a data bank concerning the data which is currently
36 available within all state agencies. This data shall be used to provide information which is useful in
37 measuring growth and its impact and for statewide planning purposes in general. The data

1 available for dissemination shall include, but shall not be limited to, information for determining
2 future demands for state services and demographic and economic statistics. Any other state agency
3 or department which initiates a data collection program shall inform the office of planning and
4 development of its efforts so that the office may utilize that information for planning purposes in its
5 dissemination program.

6 IV. Cooperate with the department of environmental services in identifying potential sites
7 for hazardous waste facilities.

8 V. Develop and maintain a computerized geographic information system in support of state,
9 regional, or local planning and management activities.

10 VI. Cooperate with the Bureau of the Census and other federal agencies with the objective of
11 improving access to the statistical products, data, and information of the federal government.

12 VII. Annually estimate the resident population for all cities and towns of the state pursuant
13 to RSA 78-A:25.

14 12-O:56 Policies and Plans.

15 I. The office of planning and development shall formulate policies and plans for
16 consideration by the commissioner and the governor which serve to integrate and coordinate
17 resource and development activities affecting more than one state agency, level of government, or
18 governmental function. Such activities may include, but shall not be limited to, the following subject
19 areas:

- 20 (a) Water resources.
- 21 (b) Transportation.
- 22 (c) Recreation and natural resources.
- 23 (d) Solid waste and hazardous waste management.
- 24 (e) Off-shore, coastal, and estuarine resources.
- 25 (f) Housing.
- 26 (g) Economic development.
- 27 (h) Energy.
- 28 (i) Shoreland protection.
- 29 (j) Smart growth.

30 12-O:57 Program Established. The director of the office of planning and development shall
31 establish a program of regional and municipal assistance within the office of planning and
32 development. This program shall coordinate state, regional, and local planning efforts with the goal
33 of assuring delivery of efficient and effective assistance to local governments in areas related to
34 growth management and resource protection.

35 12-O:58 Responsibilities for Assistance. The office of planning and development shall:

36 I. Provide technical assistance and, within the limits of biennial legislative appropriations,
37 financial grants to regional planning commissions established under RSA 36:45-36:53 in support of:

1 (a) Planning assistance to local units of government.

2 (b) Preparation of regional plans.

3 (c) Contributions to and coordination with statewide planning and management
4 activities, including the formulation and updating of the comprehensive state development plan
5 prepared pursuant to RSA 12-P:54.

6 II. As requested and in cooperation with regional planning commissions, provide technical
7 assistance and information in support of the planning and growth management efforts of local units
8 of government, including training requested under RSA 673:3-a. The office shall encourage
9 municipalities to first seek assistance from established regional planning commissions.

10 III. Provide computer interface capability among and between each regional planning
11 commission, the office of strategic initiatives, and state data collection and storage sources. The
12 computer interface capability shall be used by regional planning commissions to respond to
13 municipal requests for assistance in the preparation and amending of master plans and in the
14 evaluation of municipal infrastructure needs. The computer interface capability shall also be used
15 by regional planning commissions to develop and update regional master plans, as provided in RSA
16 36:47. The computer equipment used for the purposes of this paragraph shall be compatible and
17 able to interface with the office of planning and development's geographic information system, as
18 well as with other similar state computerized data collection and storage sources.

19 IV. Provide technical assistance and information to municipalities with the cooperation of
20 other state and regional planning agencies in the following areas:

21 (a) Use and application of geographic data available in the state's geographic
22 information system (GIS) for local planning and growth management purposes.

23 (b) Recommending standard procedures for the establishment of accurate, large-scale
24 base mapping to support municipal administrative functions such as tax assessment, public facility
25 management and engineering.

26 12-O:59 Coordination at State Level. The office of planning and development shall coordinate
27 efforts by state agencies to provide technical assistance to municipal governments in areas related to
28 growth management and resource protection.

29 189 State Development Plan. Amend RSA 9-A:2 to read as follows:

30 9-A:2 [~~Office of Strategic Initiatives~~] **Office of Planning and Development**. The office of
31 [~~strategic initiatives~~] **planning and development**, under the direction of the [~~governor~~]
32 **commissioner of business and economic affairs**, shall:

33 I. Assist the [~~governor~~] **commissioner** in preparing, publishing and revising the
34 comprehensive development plan.

35 II. Develop and maintain a technical data base of information to support statewide policy
36 development and planning.

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1 III. Coordinate and monitor the planning efforts of various state agencies and departments
2 to ensure that program plans published by such agencies are consistent with the policies and
3 priorities established in the comprehensive development plan.

4 IV. Coordinate and monitor the planning efforts of the regional planning commissions.
5 190 State Development Plan; References Changed. Amend RSA 9-A:4 to read as follows:
6 9-A:4 Consultation With Other Agencies.

7 I. In preparing the state development plan, the office of [~~strategic initiatives~~] **planning and**
8 **development** shall consult with the chief executive officers of the various departments and agencies
9 of state government with responsibilities which are relevant to economic development.

10 II. The office may also consult with officials of regional and local planning and development
11 agencies and representatives of business and industry.

12 III. All state agencies and departments shall provide the office of [~~strategic initiatives~~]
13 **planning and development** with such information and assistance required by the office to fulfill
14 its responsibilities under RSA 9-A:2. The office shall maintain the confidentiality of any information
15 which is protected by law.

16 191 Name Change; Office of Planning and Development. Amend the following RSAs by
17 replacing "office of strategic initiatives" with "office of planning and development": RSA 4-F:1; 12-
18 G:13; 17-M:2; 21-O:5-a; 21-P:48; 36:45; 36:46; 36:47; 36-B:1; 78-A:25; 78-A:26; 125-O:5-a; 126-A:4;
19 162-C:1; 162-L:15; 162-L:19; 204-C:8; 216-A:3-c; 216-F:5; 217-A:3; 227-C:4; 227-G:2; 227-M:4; 233-
20 A:2; 235:23; 238:20; 270:64; 270:71; 432:19; 482-A:32; 483:8; 483:10; 483-A:6; 483-A:7; 483-B:5; 483-
21 B:12; 483-B:16; 483-B:22; 485-A:4; 673:3-a; 674:3; 675:9.

22 192 Name Change; Department of Energy. Amend the following RSAs by replacing "office of
23 strategic initiatives" with "department of energy": RSA 9-E:5; 12-K:2; 12-K:3; 12-K:6; 12-K:8; 12-
24 K:9; 38-D:6; 147-B:4; 162-H:10; 167:4-c; 369-B:2; 374:22-j.

25 193 Reference Changed: State Energy Strategy; Offshore Wind Commission. Amend RSA 374-
26 F:10, I to read as follows:

27 I. There is established a commission to investigate, in parallel with the work of the Gulf of
28 Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force established by the Bureau of Ocean Energy
29 Management (BOEM) study, the economic development opportunities for New Hampshire in supply
30 chain needs, port capabilities, workforce development, energy procurement, transmission and
31 storage, and fisheries and marine environment, to ensure the success of offshore wind in the Gulf of
32 Maine. The commission may consider, at an appropriate time, in relation to the New Hampshire
33 state energy strategy, outlined in RSA [~~4-E~~] **12-P**, if contracts with developers and utilities can
34 deliver lower costs to ratepayers. The commission may coordinate with the advisory boards
35 established in Executive Order 2019-06 as to assist the commission in reaching its
36 recommendations.

1 194 Reference Changed; State Energy Policy; Least Cost Energy Planning. Amend RSA 378:38,
2 VII to read as follows:

3 VII. An assessment of plan integration and consistency with the state energy strategy under
4 RSA ~~[4-E:1]~~ **12-P**.

5 195 Reference Changed; Motor Vehicle Waste Fee. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA
6 261:153, V to read as follows:

7 V. Beginning July 1, 1989, in addition to each registration fee collected under paragraph I,
8 there may be collected an additional fee for the purposes of a town reclamation trust fund as
9 established in RSA 149-M:18. Of this amount, \$.50 shall be retained by the city official designated
10 by the city government or by the town clerk for administrative costs and the remaining amount shall
11 be deposited into the reclamation trust fund established by the town for the purpose of paying
12 collection and disposal fees for the town's motor vehicle waste and paying for the recycling and
13 reclamation of other types of solid waste. For the purposes of this paragraph, "motor vehicle waste"
14 means "motor vehicle waste" as defined in RSA 149-M:18. A town which collects such additional fees
15 shall not charge a disposal fee for motor vehicle waste at the town's solid waste disposal facility. If a
16 town finds the additional fee is not sufficient to cover fees for collection and disposal of town motor
17 vehicle waste, it shall notify the office of ~~[strategic initiatives]~~ **planning and development**. The
18 office shall study the fee in accordance with RSA ~~[4-C:1]~~ **12-O:53** and make recommendations, if
19 necessary, for increases in the fee. The additional fee schedule shall be graduated by class of vehicle
20 as follows:

21 196 Public Utilities Commission; Commission; Term. Amend RSA 363:1 to read as follows:

22 363:1 Commission; Term. There shall be a public utilities commission, **which shall be an**
23 **independent agency administratively attached to the department of energy pursuant to**
24 **RSA 21-G:10. The chair of the commission shall have the powers and duties set forth in**
25 **RSA 21-G:9. The commission shall be** composed of 3 commissioners who shall be full-time
26 employees and who shall engage in no other gainful employment during their terms as members.
27 Their term of office shall be for 6 years. Of the 3 commissioners, one shall be an attorney and a
28 member of the New Hampshire Bar and one shall have either background or experience or both in
29 one or more of the following: engineering, economics, accounting or finance.

30 197 Repeal. RSA 363:4-a, relative to duties of commissioners of the public utilities commission,
31 is repealed.

32 198 Public Utilities Commission; Prohibition on Future Employment. Amend RSA 363:12-b to
33 read as follows:

34 363:12-b Prohibition on Future Employment. No commissioner, **or former** executive director,
35 finance director, general counsel, or chief engineer of the commission shall accept any employment
36 with any utility under the control of the commission until one year after he or she shall become
37 separated from the commission.

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1 199 Public Utilities Commission; Quorum. Amend RSA 363:16 to read as follows:

2 363:16 Quorum. A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum to issue orders [~~or~~
3 ~~adopt rules~~], and any hearing [~~or investigation~~] may be held or conducted by 2 commissioners or by a
4 single commissioner.

5 200 Public Utilities Commission; Request for Full Commission. Amend RSA 363:17 to read as
6 follows:

7 363:17 Request for Full Commission. No hearing [~~or investigation~~], except in accident cases,
8 shall be held or conducted by a single commissioner if any party whose interests may be affected
9 shall, 5 days before the date of hearing, file a request in writing that the same be held or conducted
10 by the full commission, or a majority thereof. If no such request is filed, the commission may assign
11 one of its members or appoint a qualified member of its staff as examiner to hear the parties, report
12 the facts, and make recommendations to the commission.

13 201 Repeal. The following are repealed:

14 I. RSA 363:18-a, relative to the authority of the public utilities commission to contract for
15 power.

16 II. RSA 363:22-a, relative to pipeline operation safety.

17 202 Public Utilities Commission; Staff. Amend RSA 363:27 to read as follows:

18 363:27 Staff[; ~~Separation of Functions~~].

19 I. In the exercise of the jurisdiction and performance of the duties prescribed by law, the
20 commission shall have the power, subject to the state personnel regulations and within the limits of
21 the appropriation for such purpose, to employ and fix the compensation of such regular staff,
22 including experts, as it shall deem necessary. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the
23 expenditure of additional funds over budget estimates is necessary for the proper functioning of the
24 public utilities commission, the governor and council, with the prior approval of the fiscal committee
25 of the general court, upon request from the commission, may authorize an additional assessment
26 pursuant to RSA 363-A for such purpose.

27 II. The staff of the commission shall be organized as the [~~commission~~] **chairperson**
28 determines best achieves its statutory responsibilities.

29 III. [~~Executive Director and General Counsel. The commission shall appoint an executive~~
30 ~~director, who shall serve for a term of 4 years. The commission shall also appoint a general counsel,~~
31 ~~who shall serve for a term of 4 years and until a successor is appointed and qualified.] **"Staff"**
32 **means the employees of the commission and any consultants and other contractors**
33 **retained by the commission for the purpose of assisting the commission and its employees**
34 **in providing advice or information, or for the purpose of supplementing the work of the**
35 **commission and its employees.**~~

36 [IV. ~~Director of Safety and Security. The commission shall appoint a director of safety and~~
37 ~~security, who shall serve a term of 4 years. The director of safety and security shall be qualified to~~

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1 ~~hold that position by reason of education and experience and shall perform such duties as are~~
2 ~~assigned by the chairman of the commission.]~~

3 203 Office of the Consumer Advocate; Attachment to Department of Energy. Amend the
4 introductory paragraph of RSA 363:28, I to read as follows:

5 I. The office of the consumer advocate shall be an independent agency administratively
6 attached to the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** pursuant to RSA 21-G:10. The
7 office shall consist of the following:

8 204 Office of the Consumer Advocate; Attachment to Department of Energy. Amend RSA
9 363:28, III to read as follows:

10 III. The consumer advocate shall have authority to contract for outside consultants within
11 the limits of funds available to the office. With the approval of the fiscal committee of the general
12 court and the governor and council, the office of the consumer advocate may employ experts to assist
13 it in proceedings before the public utilities commission, and may pay them reasonable compensation.
14 The ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** shall charge a special assessment for any
15 such amounts against any utility participating in such proceedings and shall provide for the timely
16 recovery of such amounts for the affected utility.

17 205 Repeal. RSA 363:30 through RSA 363:36, relative to participation of staff of the public
18 utilities commission in adjudicative proceedings, are repealed.

19 206 Public Utilities Commission; Complaints. Amend RSA 363:39 to read as follows:

20 363:39 Complaints ~~[to the Commission]~~. When complaints to the ~~[public utilities commission]~~
21 **department of energy** are initiated by residential customers, the ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall
22 provide to the consumer advocate access to the complaint, by paper or electronically, with the
23 customer name blocked out, at the same time as the ~~[commission]~~ **department** forwards the
24 complaint to the utility in compliance with ~~[commission]~~ **department** rules.

25 207 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Infrastructure Commission; Membership. Amend RSA
26 4-G:1, II(a)(1) to read as follows:

27 (1) ~~[Office of strategic initiatives]~~ **Department of energy**.

28 208 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Infrastructure Commission; Duties. Amend RSA 4-G:1,
29 III(f) to read as follows:

30 (f) Changes needed to state laws, rules, and practices, including building codes,
31 **department of energy rules**, and public utilities commission rules, to further the development of
32 zero emission vehicle technology and infrastructure.

33 209 Maintenance of Funds Collected Pursuant to Electric Utility Restructuring Orders. Amend
34 RSA 6:12-b to read as follows:

35 6:12-b Maintenance of Funds Collected Pursuant to Electric Utility Restructuring Orders. On
36 request of the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy**, the state treasurer shall
37 maintain custody over funds collected by order of the public utilities commission consisting of only

1 that portion of the system benefits charge directly attributable to programs for low income customers
 2 as described in RSA 374-F:4, VIII(c). All funds received by the state treasurer pursuant to this
 3 section shall be kept separate from any other funds and shall be administered in accordance with
 4 terms and conditions established by the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy**. Plans
 5 for the administration of such funds shall be approved by the fiscal committee of the general court
 6 and the governor and council prior to submission to the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of**
 7 **energy**. Appropriations and expenditures of such funds in fiscal years 2002 and 2003 shall be
 8 approved by the fiscal committee of the general court and the governor and council prior to
 9 submission to the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy**. For each biennium
 10 thereafter, appropriations and expenditures of such funds shall be made through the biennial
 11 operating budget.

12 210 Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Districts. Amend RSA 53-F:6, I to read as follows:

13 I. Improvements financed pursuant to an agreement under this chapter shall be based upon
 14 an audit performed by a person who has been certified as a building analyst by the Building
 15 Performance Institute or who has obtained other appropriate certification as determined by the
 16 ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** or another appropriate New Hampshire-based
 17 entity. The audit shall identify recommended energy conservation and efficiency and clean energy
 18 improvements; provide the estimated energy cost savings, useful life, benefit-cost ratio, and simple
 19 payback or return on investment for each improvement; and provide the estimated overall difference
 20 in annual energy costs with and without recommended improvements. Financed improvements
 21 shall be consistent with the audit recommendations. The cost of the audit may be included in the
 22 total amount financed under this chapter.

23 211 Enhanced 911 Commission; Membership. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 106-
 24 H:3, I(a) to read as follows:

25 (a) There is hereby established an enhanced 911 commission consisting of 19 members,
 26 including the director of the division of fire standards and training and emergency medical services
 27 or designee, the ~~[chairman of the public utilities commission]~~ **commissioner of the department of**
 28 **energy** or designee, the commissioner of the department of safety or designee, a public member, a
 29 police officer experienced in responding to emergency calls, a representative of the disabled
 30 community, and one active member recommended by each of the following organizations, nominated
 31 by the governor with the approval of the council:

32 212 Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board; Membership. Amend RSA 125-O:5-a,
 33 II(b) to read as follows:

34 II. The members of the board shall be as follows:

35 (a) The chairman of the public utilities commission, or designee.

36 (b) The ~~[director of the office of strategic initiatives]~~ **commissioner of the department**
 37 **of energy**, or designee.

- 1 (c) The consumer advocate, or designee.
- 2 (d) The commissioner of the department of environmental services, or designee.
- 3 (e) The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs, or designee.
- 4 (f) The president of the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire, or
5 designee.
- 6 (g) The executive director of the New Hampshire Municipal Association, or designee.
- 7 (h) The executive director of New Hampshire Legal Assistance, or designee.
- 8 (i) The president of the Homebuilders ampersand Remodelers Association of New
9 Hampshire, or designee.
- 10 (j) Two members of the house science, technology and energy committee appointed by
11 the speaker of the house of representatives.
- 12 (k) One member of the senate energy, environment and economic development
13 committee, appointed by the president of the senate.
- 14 (l) Three representatives from not-for-profit groups representing energy, environmental,
15 consumer, or public health issues and knowledgeable in energy conservation policies and programs,
16 appointed by the ~~chairman of the public utilities commission~~ **commissioner of the department of**
17 **energy**.
- 18 (m) The commissioner of the department of administrative services, or designee.
- 19 (n) The state fire marshal, or designee.
- 20 (o) The executive director of the New Hampshire housing finance authority, or designee.
- 21 III. The board shall include, as nonvoting participants, the following:
- 22 (a) One representative from each utility-administered electric and natural gas energy
23 efficiency program appointed by the ~~chairman of the public utilities commission~~ **commissioner of**
24 **the department of energy**.
- 25 (b) A representative of energy services companies delivering energy efficiency services to
26 residential and business customers, appointed by the ~~chairman of the public utilities commission~~
27 **commissioner of the department of energy**.
- 28 (c) A representative of a business or association of businesses selling or installing
29 sustainable or renewable energy systems, appointed by the ~~chairman of the public utilities~~
30 ~~commission~~ **commissioner of the department of energy**.
- 31 (d) A representative from the investment community with expertise in efficiency
32 investments and financing, appointed by the ~~chairman of the public utilities commission~~
33 **commissioner of the department of energy**.

34 IV. The chairman of the public utilities commission shall call the first meeting of the board.
35 The board shall elect a chairperson from among its members. Seven members of the board shall
36 constitute a quorum. The board shall make an annual report on December 1 to the governor, the
37 speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house science, technology

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1 and energy committee, the senate energy, environment and economic development committee, *the*
2 *department of energy*, and the public utilities commission, to provide an update on its activities
3 and recommendations for action including possible legislation.

4 V. The board shall be administratively attached to the ~~[public utilities commission]~~
5 *department of energy* under RSA 21-G:10.

6 213 State Building Code Review Board; Membership. Amend RSA 155-A:10, I(k) to read as
7 follows:

8 (k) One representative from the New Hampshire ~~[public utilities commission]~~
9 *department of energy*, nominated by the ~~[chairman of the commission]~~ *commissioner of the*
10 *department of energy*.

11 214 New Hampshire Building Code; Energy Code Compliance Form. Amend RSA 155-A:10-a to
12 read as follows:

13 155-A:10-a Energy Code Compliance Form. The state building code review board shall prescribe
14 by rule and make available to the public, in electronic formats, a simplified residential energy code
15 compliance form based upon the energy provisions in the International Residential Code and the
16 International Energy Conservation Code identified in RSA 155-A:1. The correctly completed form
17 shall be accepted by all code enforcement authorities within the state of New Hampshire as one
18 method of verification that the applicable project meets the code requirements. Completed
19 compliance forms shall be submitted to the building official in those municipalities that have
20 adopted an enforcement mechanism under RSA 674:51. For municipalities without an adopted code
21 enforcement mechanism, completed compliance forms shall be submitted to the New Hampshire
22 ~~[public utilities commission]~~ *department of energy*, on behalf of the building code review board, for
23 verification that the applicable project meets the code requirements. The ~~[public utilities~~
24 ~~commission]~~ *department of energy* shall then forward the reviewed compliance forms to the
25 municipality for retention in property records.

26 215 Conduct of Studies Concerning Changes in Laws and Regulations with a View to Atomic
27 Development. Amend RSA 162-B:3, IV to read as follows:

28 IV. The public utilities commission *and the department of energy*, particularly as to the
29 transportation of special nuclear materials and by-product materials by common carriers or public or
30 private air carriers not in interstate commerce and as to the participation by public utilities subject
31 to ~~[its]~~ *their* jurisdiction in projects looking to the development of production or utilization facilities
32 for industrial or commercial use.

33 216 Nuclear Decommissioning Financing Committee; Membership. Amend RSA 162-F:15, II to
34 read as follows:

35 II. Each committee shall consist of one person who is a resident of the town or city in which
36 the facility is located and who shall be appointed by the selectmen of the town or the mayor and
37 council of the city, the chairman of the public utilities commission, *the commissioner of the*

1 **department of energy**, one senator, to be appointed by the senate president, one house member, to
 2 be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, the state treasurer or designee, the
 3 commissioner of the department of health and human services or designee, the commissioner of the
 4 department of safety or designee, and the director of the governor's office of energy and community
 5 services or designee.

6 217 Organization of Nuclear Decommissioning Financing Committees. Amend RSA 162-F:17, I
 7 to read as follows:

8 I. The temporary chairman of each committee formed, who shall be the [~~chairman of the~~
 9 ~~public utilities commission~~] **commissioner of the department of energy**, shall call an
 10 organizational meeting within 90 days of formation. At the organizational meeting, the committee
 11 shall select a chairman to serve for a 3-year term, elect such other officers as the members shall
 12 determine, and establish a schedule of meetings for determining the requirements of the
 13 decommissioning fund.

14 218 Decommissioning of Nuclear Electric Generating Facilities; Report; Public Hearing. Amend
 15 RSA 162-F:21, III-IV to read as follows:

16 III. Each committee shall rely on all available data and experience in determining the
 17 amount of such fund including, but not limited to, information from the Nuclear Regulatory
 18 Commission; the public utilities commission; **the department of energy**, the owner or owners of the
 19 facility; municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies; and relevant
 20 construction cost indices. The committee shall publish a transcript of all proceedings during which
 21 information was presented or offered into testimony, and a detailed analysis of the facts and figures
 22 used in determining the amount of the fund.

23 IV. Following the committee's deliberation and prior to final hearing, the plan for scheduled
 24 payments into the fund and relevant evidence, including the transcripts and analysis published
 25 pursuant to RSA 162-F:21, III, shall be available for public review in the clerk's office of the city or
 26 town where the facility is located and in the office of the [~~public utilities commission~~] **department of**
 27 **energy** at least 30 days prior to the one or more public hearings on the committee's proposed plan.
 28 At least one hearing shall be held in the city or town where the facility is located. A notice of the
 29 time and place of each hearing shall be posted in 2 appropriate public places in the city or town
 30 where the facility is located and shall be printed at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation
 31 for that city or town and in a newspaper of state-wide circulation 2 weeks prior to each hearing.
 32 Testimony presented at the hearings held pursuant to this paragraph shall be taken into
 33 consideration by the committee when it formalizes the payment schedule plan. All testimony shall
 34 be transcribed and made a permanent record.

35 219 Site Evaluation Committee; Membership; Administrative Attachment. Amend RSA 162-
 36 H:3, I-IV to read as follows:

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1 I. There is hereby established a committee to be known as the New Hampshire site
2 evaluation committee consisting of 9 members, as follows:

3 (a) The commissioners of the public utilities commission, the chairperson of which shall
4 be the chairperson of the committee;

5 (b) The commissioner of the department of environmental services, who shall be the
6 vice-chairperson of the committee;

7 (c) The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs or designee;

8 (d) The commissioner of the department of transportation;

9 (e) The commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources, the director of
10 the division of historical resources, or designee; ~~and~~

11 (f) ~~[Two members]~~ **One member** of the public, appointed by the governor, with the
12 consent of the council, in accordance with RSA 162-H:4-b, III[-]; **and**

13 **(g) The commissioner of the department of energy.**

14 II. All members, including those who sit for a member recused under paragraph VI, shall
15 refrain from ex parte communications regarding any matter pending before the committee. This
16 prohibition shall extend to those who sit on any subcommittee formed under RSA 162-H:4-a.

17 III. Seven members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of
18 conducting the committee's business.

19 IV. The committee shall be administratively attached to the ~~[public utilities commission]~~
20 **department of energy** pursuant to RSA 21-G:10.

21 220 Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for Certain Products; Definitions. Amend RSA 339-
22 G:1, II to read as follows:

23 II. ~~["Commission" means the public utilities commission.]~~ **"Department" means the**
24 **department of energy.**

25 221 Reference Change; Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for Certain Products;
26 Department. Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing the term "commission" with
27 "department": 339-G:3, II(b), 339-G:4, II, 339-G:5, 339-G:6, 339-G:7, 339-G:8, 339-G:9.

28 222 Gas Companies; When Public Utilities. Amend RSA 362:4-b, III to read as follows:

29 III. Nothing in this section prevents the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** from
30 monitoring or enforcing the provisions of federal pipeline safety standards relative to liquefied
31 petroleum gas systems pursuant to the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act.

32 223 New Paragraph; Limited Electrical Energy Producers Act; Definitions. Amend RSA 362-
33 A:1-a by inserting after paragraph II-d the following new paragraph:

34 II-e. "Department" means the New Hampshire department of energy.

35 224 Reference Change; Net Energy Metering; Department of Energy. Amend the following RSA
36 provisions by replacing the term "commission" with "department": 362-A:9, X-XII.

37 225 Net Energy Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9, XIV to read as follows:

1 XIV.(a) A customer-generator may elect to become a group host for the purpose of reducing
 2 or otherwise controlling the energy costs of a group of customers who are not customer-generators.
 3 The group of customers shall be located within the service territory of the same electric distribution
 4 utility as the host. The host shall provide a list of the group members to the commission and the
 5 electric distribution utility and shall certify that all members of the group have executed an
 6 agreement with the host regarding the utilization of kilowatt hours produced by the eligible facility
 7 and that the total historic annual load of the group members together with the host exceeds the
 8 projected annual output of the host's facility. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall verify that these
 9 group requirements have been met and shall register the group host. The ~~[commission]~~ **department**
 10 shall establish the process for registering hosts, including periodic re-registration, and the process by
 11 which changes in membership are allowed and administered. Net metering tariffs under this section
 12 shall not be made available to a customer-generator group host until such host is registered by the
 13 ~~[commission]~~ **department**.

14 (b) Except as provided in subparagraph (c), the provisions of this section shall apply to a
 15 group host as a customer-generator.

16 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph V, a group host shall be paid for its surplus generation at
 17 the end of each billing cycle at rates consistent with the credit the group host receives relative to its
 18 own net metering under either subparagraph IV(a) or (b) or alternative tariffs that may be
 19 applicable pursuant to paragraph XVI. Alternatively, a group host may elect to receive credits on
 20 the customer electric bill for each member and the host, with the utility being allowed the most cost-
 21 effective method of doing so according to an amount or percentage specified for each member on PUC
 22 form 909.09 (Application to Register or Re-register as a Host), along with a 3 cent per kwh addition
 23 from July 1, 2019 through July 1, 2021 and a 2.5 cent per kwh addition thereafter for low-moderate
 24 income community solar projects, as defined in RSA 362-F:2, X-a. On or before July 1, 2022, the
 25 ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall report on the costs and benefits of such an addition and the
 26 development of the market for low-moderate income community solar projects, and provide a
 27 recommendation on whether the addition shall be increased or decreased. The ~~[commission]~~
 28 **department** shall report on the costs and benefits of low-moderate income community solar projects,
 29 as defined in RSA 362-F:2, X-a on or before June 1, 2020. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall
 30 authorize at least 2 new low-moderate income community solar projects, as defined in RSA 362-F:2,
 31 X-a, each year in each utility's service territory beginning January 1, 2020. On an annual basis, for
 32 all group host systems except for residential systems with an interconnected capacity under 15
 33 kilowatts, the electric distribution utility shall calculate a payment adjustment if the host's surplus
 34 generation for which it was paid is greater than the group's total electricity usage during the same
 35 time period. The adjustment shall be such that the resulting compensation to the host for the
 36 amount that exceeded the group's total usage shall be at the utility's avoided cost or its default

1 service rate in accordance with subparagraph V(b) or paragraph VI or alternative tariffs that may be
2 applicable pursuant to paragraph XVI. The utility shall pay or bill the host accordingly.

3 (d) [Repealed.]

4 (e) The **department is authorized to petition the** commission [~~is authorized~~] to assess
5 fines against, revoke the registration of, and prohibit from doing business in the state, any group
6 host which violates the requirements of this paragraph and rules adopted pursuant to this
7 paragraph. **The commission is authorized to grant or deny such petitions.**

8 226 Repeal. RSA 362-F:2, IV, relative to the definition of "commission" as it pertains to electric
9 renewable portfolio standards, is repealed.

10 227 Electric Renewable Energy Classes; Reference Changed. Amend RSA 362-F:4, I(i)-(k) to
11 read as follows:

12 (i) The incremental new production of electricity in any year from an eligible biomass or
13 methane source or any hydroelectric generating facility licensed or exempted by Federal Energy
14 Regulatory Commission (FERC), regardless of gross nameplate capacity, over its historical
15 generation baseline, provided the [~~commission~~] **department of energy** certifies demonstrable
16 completion of capital investments attributable to the efficiency improvements, additions of capacity,
17 or increased renewable energy output that are sufficient to, were intended to, and can be
18 demonstrated to increase annual renewable electricity output. The determination of incremental
19 production shall not be based on any operational changes at such facility but rather on capital
20 investments in efficiency improvements or additions of capacity.

21 (j) The production of electricity from a class III or IV source that has begun operation as
22 a new facility by demonstrating that 80 percent of its resulting tax basis of the source's plant and
23 equipment, but not its property and intangible assets, is derived from capital investment directly
24 related to restoring generation or increasing capacity including department permitting requirements
25 for new plants. Such production shall not qualify for class III or IV certificates. Commencing July 1,
26 2013, a class III source eligible as a class I source under this subparagraph or subparagraph (i) may
27 submit a notice to the [~~commission~~] **department of energy** electing to be a class III source instead
28 of a class I source. Once such notice is given, the production from such a source shall qualify for
29 class III certificates, provided the source meets the other requirements of a class III eligible biomass
30 technology.

31 (k) The production of electricity from any fossil-fueled generating facility that originally
32 commenced operation prior to January 1, 2006, if after January 1, 2012 such facility co-fires with
33 class I eligible biomass fuels to displace the combustion of an amount of fossil fuels. The portion of
34 the total electrical energy output that qualifies as class I from a facility in a given time period shall
35 be the fraction of electrical production derived from the combustion of biomass fuels based on the
36 heat input at the facility in that time period as determined by the [~~commission~~] **department of**

1 **energy** in consultation with the department. To qualify under this paragraph, the electricity
2 generation facility that co-fires with biomass fuels shall:

3 (1) Either have a quarterly average nitrogen oxide (NOx) emission rate, as measured
4 and verified under RSA 362-F:12, of less than or equal to 0.075 pounds/million British thermal units
5 (lbs/Mmbtu) or be a participant in a plan approved by the department for reductions in NOx from
6 other emission sources. The quantity of reductions required shall be the fraction of electrical
7 production derived from the combustion of biomass fuels, as determined under this paragraph,
8 multiplied by the difference between the generation unit's NOx emissions rate and the 0.075
9 lbs/Mmbtu rate. The plan shall contain reductions, in the aggregate or individually, in NOx
10 emissions from other emission sources under the jurisdiction of the department and demonstrate
11 that the reductions will be quantifiable. The department shall expeditiously review the plan and, if
12 approved, provide such information as it deems relevant to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**.
13 The application submitted to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** under RSA 362-F:11 shall
14 inform the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** of the plan and the ~~[commission]~~ **department of**
15 **energy** shall certify the source in accordance with the plan approved by the department; and

16 (2) Either have an average particulate emission rate, as measured and verified
17 under RSA 362-F:12, of less than or equal to 0.02 lbs/Mmbtu or be a participant in a plan approved
18 by the department for reductions in particulate matter emissions from emission sources owned by or
19 affiliated with the co-firing entity. The quantity of reductions required shall be the fraction of
20 electrical production derived from the combustion of biomass fuels, as determined under this
21 paragraph, multiplied by the difference between the generation unit's particulate matter emissions
22 rate and the 0.02 lbs/Mmbtu rate. The plan shall contain reductions, in the aggregate or
23 individually, in particulate matter emissions from other emission sources under the jurisdiction of
24 the department and demonstrate that the reductions will be quantifiable. The department shall
25 expeditiously review the plan and, if approved, provide such information as it deems relevant to the
26 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**. The application submitted to the ~~[commission]~~ **department**
27 **of energy** under RSA 362-F:11 shall inform the commission of the plan and the commission shall
28 certify the source in accordance with the plan approved by the department.

29 228 Electric Renewable Energy Classes; Reference Change. Amend RSA 362-F:4, IV-VI to read
30 as follows:

31 IV.(a) Class IV (Existing Small Hydroelectric) shall include the production of electricity from
32 hydroelectric energy, provided the facility:

- 33 (1) Began operation prior to January 1, 2006;
- 34 (2) When required, has documented applicable state water quality certification
35 pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act for hydroelectric projects; and
- 36 (3) Either:

1 (A) Has a total nameplate capacity of 5 MWs or less as measured by the sum of
2 the nameplate capacities of all the generators at the facility and has actually installed both
3 upstream and downstream diadromous fish passages and such installations have been approved by
4 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or;

5 (B) Has a total nameplate capacity of one MW or less as measured by the sum of
6 the nameplate capacities of all generators at the facility, is in compliance with applicable Federal
7 Energy Regulatory Commission fish passage restoration requirements, and is interconnected with
8 an electric distribution system located in New Hampshire.

9 (b)(1) Notwithstanding subparagraph (a), the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall
10 re-certify as class IV renewable energy sources the facilities named in **public utilities** commission
11 order numbers 24,940 and 24,952. These facilities are:

12 (A) The Canaan, Gorham, Hooksett, and Jackman hydroelectric facilities ~~[owned~~
13 ~~by Public Service Company of New Hampshire]~~, which had been previously certified by the **public**
14 **utilities** commission on September 23, 2008; and

15 (B) The North Gorham and Bar Mills projects owned by FPL Energy Maine
16 Hydro, LLC which had been previously certified by the **public utilities** commission on October 30,
17 2008.

18 (2) These facilities shall not qualify or be certified as class IV renewable energy
19 sources after March 23, 2009, unless they meet the requirements of subparagraph (a). Such
20 facilities shall be eligible for class IV renewable energy certificates for all electricity generated
21 between the effective date of each facility's original certification by the **public utilities** commission
22 through March 23, 2009. Such certificates shall have the same validity as any other class IV
23 certificate issued under RSA 362-F, and may be sold, exchanged, banked, and utilized accordingly.

24 V. For good cause, and after notice and hearing, the commission may accelerate or delay by
25 up to one year, any given year's incremental increase in class I or II renewable portfolio standards
26 requirement under RSA 362-F:3.

27 VI. After notice and hearing, the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** may modify the class
28 III and IV renewable portfolio standards requirements under RSA 362-F:3 for calendar years
29 beginning January 1, 2012 such that the requirements are equal to an amount between 85 percent
30 and 95 percent of the reasonably expected potential annual output of available eligible sources after
31 taking into account demand from similar programs in other states.

32 229 Renewable Energy Certificates. Amend RSA 362-F:6, V to read as follows:

33 V. A qualified producer of useful thermal energy shall provide for the metering of useful
34 thermal energy produced in order to calculate the quantity of megawatt-hours for which renewable
35 energy certificates are qualified, and to report to the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of**
36 **energy** under rules adopted pursuant to RSA 362-F:13. Monitoring, reporting, and calculating the

1 useful thermal energy produced in each quarter shall be expressed in megawatt-hours, where each
2 3,412,000 BTUs of useful thermal energy is equivalent to one megawatt-hour.

3 230 Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard; Information Collection; Reference Change. Amend
4 RSA 362-F:8 to read as follows:

5 362-F:8 Information Collection.

6 I. By July 1 of each year, each provider of electricity shall submit a report to the
7 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**, in a form approved by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of**
8 **energy**, documenting its compliance with the requirements of this chapter for the prior year. The
9 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** may investigate compliance and collect any information
10 necessary to verify and audit the information provided to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**
11 by providers of electricity.

12 II. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall adopt rules governing the reporting
13 requirements under paragraph I that are designed to minimize the administrative costs and burden
14 on electricity providers.

15 III. Beginning October 1, 2019 and by October 1 of each subsequent year, the ~~[commission]~~
16 **department of energy** shall disclose the information collected under paragraph I as public
17 information in the ~~[commission's]~~ **department of energy** annual report pursuant to RSA 362-F:10,

18 IV. No information shall be disclosed to the public that is confidential as defined by ~~[public-utilities~~
19 ~~commission]~~ **department of energy** or NEPOOL Generation Information System rules.

20 IV. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall provide as part of the annual renewable
21 energy fund report, pursuant to RSA 362-F:10, IV, renewable portfolio standard compliance costs
22 and average electric rate impact; renewable energy certificate versus alternative compliance
23 payments comparison; and alternative compliance payments by class and provider of electricity. The
24 report shall also include the number of renewable energy certificates that were purchased during the
25 prior compliance year by class.

26 V. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall complete the rulemaking process and
27 submit requests to the administrator of the NEPOOL Generation Information System that are
28 necessary to implement this section no later than April 1, 2019.

29 231 Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard; Renewable Energy Fund. Amend RSA 362-F:10 to
30 read as follows:

31 362-F:10 Renewable Energy Fund.

32 I. There is hereby established a renewable energy fund. This special fund shall be
33 nonlapsing. The state treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited therein as provided by law.
34 Income received on investments made by the state treasurer shall also be credited to the fund. All
35 payments to be made under this section shall be deposited in the fund. Any remaining moneys paid
36 into the fund under paragraph II of this section, excluding class II moneys, shall be used by the
37 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** to support thermal and electrical renewable energy initiatives.

1 Class II moneys shall primarily be used to support solar energy technologies in New Hampshire. All
 2 initiatives supported out of these funds shall be subject to audit by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of**
 3 **energy** as deemed necessary. All fund moneys including those from class II may be used to
 4 administer this chapter, but all new employee positions shall be approved by the fiscal committee of
 5 the general court. No new employees shall be hired by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** due
 6 to the inclusion of useful thermal energy in class I production.

7 II. In lieu of meeting the portfolio requirements of RSA 362-F:3 for a given year if, and to the
 8 extent sufficient certificates are not otherwise available at a price below the amounts specified in
 9 this paragraph, an electricity provider may, at the time of report submission for that year under RSA
 10 362-F:8, make payment to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** at the following rates for each
 11 megawatt-hour not met for a given class obligation through the acquisition of certificates:

12 (a) Class I-\$55, except for that portion of the class electric renewable portfolio standards
 13 to be met by qualifying renewable energy technologies producing useful thermal energy under RSA
 14 362-F:3 which shall be \$25 beginning January 1, 2013.

15 (b) Class II-\$55.

16 (c) Class III-\$31.50.

17 (d) Class IV-\$26.50.

18 III.(a) Beginning in 2013, the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall adjust these rates
 19 by January 31 of each year using the Consumer Price Index as published by the Bureau of Labor
 20 Statistics of the United States Department of Labor for classes III and IV and 1/2 of such Index for
 21 classes I and II.

22 (b) In lieu of the adjustments under subparagraph (a) for class III in 2015 and 2016, the
 23 class rate in each of those years shall be \$45. In lieu of the adjustments under subparagraph (a) for
 24 class III in 2017, 2018, and 2019, the class rate in each of those years shall be \$55.

25 (c) By January 31, 2020 the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall compute the
 26 2020 class III rate to equal the rate that would have resulted in 2020 by the application of
 27 subparagraph (a) to the 2013 rate and each subsequent year's rate to 2020.

28 (d) In 2021 and thereafter, the class III rate shall be determined by application of
 29 subparagraph (a) to the prior year's rate.

30 IV. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall make an annual report by October 1 of
 31 each year, beginning in 2009, to the legislative oversight committee to monitor the transformation of
 32 delivery of electric services established under RSA 374-F:5, the house science, technology and energy
 33 committee, and the senate energy and natural resources committee detailing how the renewable
 34 energy fund is being used and any recommended changes to such use. The report shall also include
 35 information on the total peak generating capacity that is net energy metered under RSA 362-A:9
 36 within the franchise area of each electric distribution utility, and the percentage this represents of
 37 the amount that is allowed to be net metered within each franchise area. Information shall be

1 provided on net metered group host registrations and the associated customer groups, including
 2 number and location of group host facilities, generation by renewable source and size of facility, and
 3 group load served by such facilities.

4 V. The ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** shall make and administer a
 5 one-time incentive payment of \$3 per watt of nominal generation capacity up to a maximum
 6 payment of \$6,000, or 50 percent of system costs, whichever is less, per facility to any residential
 7 owner of a small renewable generation facility, that would qualify as a Class I or Class II source of
 8 electricity, begins operation on or after July 1, 2008, and is located on or at the owner's residence.

9 VI. Such payments shall be allocated from the renewable energy fund established in
 10 paragraph I, as determined by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** to the extent funding is
 11 available up to a maximum aggregate payment of 40 percent of the fund over each 2-year period
 12 commencing July 1, 2010.

13 VII. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall, after notice and hearing, by order or
 14 rule establish an application process for the incentive payment program established under
 15 paragraph V. The application process shall include verification of costs for parts and labor,
 16 certification that the equipment used meets the applicable safety standards of the American
 17 National Standards Institute (ANSI) or Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or similar safety rating
 18 agency, and that the facility meets local zoning regulations, and receives any required inspections.

19 VIII. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** may, after notice and hearing, by order or
 20 rule, establish additional incentive or rebate programs and competitive grant opportunities for
 21 renewable thermal and electric energy projects sited in New Hampshire.

22 IX. For good cause the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** may, after notice and hearing,
 23 by order or rule, modify the program, including reducing the incentive level, created under RSA 362-
 24 F:10, V.

25 X. Consistent with RSA 362-F:10, VI, the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall, over
 26 each 2-year period commencing July 1, 2010, reasonably balance overall amounts expended,
 27 allocated, or obligated from the fund, net of administrative expenditures, between residential and
 28 nonresidential sectors. Funds from the renewable energy fund awarded to renewable projects in the
 29 residential sector shall be in approximate proportion to the amount of electricity sold at retail to that
 30 sector in New Hampshire, and the remaining funds from the renewable energy fund shall be
 31 awarded to projects in the nonresidential sector which include commercial and industrial sited
 32 renewable energy projects, existing generators, and developers of new commercial-scale renewable
 33 generation in New Hampshire, provided no less than 15 percent of the funds shall annually benefit
 34 low-moderate income residential customers, including, but not limited to, the financing or leveraging
 35 of financing for low-moderate income community solar projects in manufactured housing
 36 communities or in multi-family rental housing.

1 XI. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall issue requests for proposals that provide
 2 renewable projects in the nonresidential sector, which include commercial and industrial sited
 3 renewable energy projects, existing generators, and developers of new commercial-scale renewable
 4 generation in New Hampshire, with opportunities to receive funds from the renewable energy fund
 5 established under RSA 362-F:10. The requests for proposals shall provide such opportunities to
 6 those renewable energy projects that are not eligible to participate in incentive and rebate programs
 7 developed by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** under RSA 362-F:10, V and RSA 362-F:10,
 8 VIII. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall issue a request for proposals no later than
 9 March 1, 2011 and annually thereafter, and select winning projects in a timely manner.

10 232 References Change; Electric Renewable Portfolio Standards; Department of Energy. Amend
 11 the following RSA provisions by replacing "commission" with "department of energy": 362-F:5, 362-
 12 F:6, I-IV, 362-F:9, 362-F:11, 362-F:12, 362-F:13, 362-F:14.

13 233 Expenses of the Public Utilities Commission Against Certain Utilities. Amend RSA 363-A:1
 14 to read as follows:

15 363-A:1 Ascertainment of Expenses. The ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy**
 16 shall annually, after the close of the fiscal year, ascertain the total of its expenses **attributable to**
 17 **support of the public utilities commission and to performance of all duties and**
 18 **responsibilities transferred to the department from the public utilities commission, in**
 19 **addition to the total of the public utilities commission's expenses** during such year incurred in
 20 the performance of its duties relating to public utilities as defined in RSA 362 and other entities
 21 subject to its regulatory and enforcement authority and relating to the office of the consumer
 22 advocate. In the determination of such expenses there shall be excluded the expenses which have
 23 been or may be charged and recovered under the provisions of RSA 365:37, RSA 365:38, and RSA
 24 374-F:7, I.

25 234 Expenses of Public Utilities Commission Against Certain Utilities; Assessment. Amend
 26 RSA 363-A:2, III-IV to read as follows:

27 III. Each entity described in subparagraph I(e) shall be assessed the sum of \$10,000 on an
 28 annual basis and shall pay such assessed sum to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**. Each
 29 electric load aggregator, and each aggregator of natural gas customers shall be assessed the sum of
 30 \$2,000 on an annual basis and shall pay such assessed sum to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of**
 31 **energy**. Each telecommunications carrier voluntarily registered with the commission shall be
 32 assessed the sum of \$1,000 on an annual basis and shall pay such sum to the ~~[commission]~~
 33 **department of energy**.

34 IV. The expenses of the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy and the public utilities**
 35 **commission**, less the total of the assessed sums paid ~~[to the commission]~~ pursuant to paragraph III,
 36 shall be allocated to each utility and other assessed entity in direct proportion as the revenue
 37 calculation for such utility or other assessed entity relates to the total of all such revenue

1 calculations as a whole, except as otherwise provided in paragraph V. Each such expense allocation
 2 shall be assessed against each public utility and other assessed entity in an amount equal to its
 3 proportionate share as determined under this section, except that the expense allocation attributed
 4 to each entity described in subparagraph I(e) shall be imputed to and included in the expense
 5 allocation to each electric or natural gas distribution utility or rural electric cooperative for which a
 6 certificate of deregulation is on file with the commission, in correspondence to the revenue portion
 7 reported pursuant to paragraph II as having been received from the distribution customers of such
 8 distribution utility or the members of such rural electric cooperative for which a certificate of
 9 deregulation is on file with the commission.

10 235 Expenses of Public Utilities Commission Against Certain Utilities; Certification of
 11 Assessment; Collection. Amend RSA 363-A:3 and RSA 363-A:4 to read as follows:

12 363-A:3 Certification of Assessment. It shall be the duty of the [~~public utilities commission~~]
 13 **department of energy** to calculate the amount to be assessed against each such public utility and
 14 each other entity subject to assessment in accordance with RSA 363-A:1 and RSA 363-A:2. At the
 15 beginning of each fiscal year, the [~~public utilities commission~~] **department of energy** shall estimate
 16 [~~its~~] **the** total expenses for the fiscal year, and then, based on such estimate, shall calculate the
 17 amount to be assessed quarterly on August 10, October 15, January 15, and April 15 of that fiscal
 18 year, against each such public utility and other assessed entity in accordance with RSA 363-A:1 and
 19 RSA 363-A:2. The [~~public utilities commission~~] **department of energy** shall then make a list
 20 showing the amount due on August 10, October 15, January 15, and April 15 of that fiscal year from
 21 each of the several public utilities and other entities assessed under the provisions hereof, and,
 22 together with a statement of the full name and mailing address of each such public utility and other
 23 assessed entity, shall certify the same. After the close of each fiscal year, the [~~public utilities~~
 24 ~~commission~~] **department of energy** shall ascertain [~~its~~] **the** actual total expenses in accordance
 25 with RSA 363-A:1 and RSA 363-A:2, and then shall adjust the assessment for the first quarterly
 26 payment of the new fiscal year for each such public utility or other assessed entity for any
 27 underpayment or overpayment by each such public utility or other assessed entity for the prior fiscal
 28 year.

29 363-A:4 Collection. Upon the completion of each such list, on or before August 10, October 10,
 30 January 10, and April 10 of each fiscal year, the [~~public utilities commission~~] **department of energy**
 31 shall bill each public utility and each other entity subject to assessment for the quarterly amount
 32 assessed against it within 10 working days. Such bill shall be sent registered mail, and shall
 33 constitute notice of assessment and demand for payment. Payment shall be made to the [~~public~~
 34 ~~utilities commission~~] **department of energy** within 30 days after the receipt of the bill. After the
 35 expiration of 30 days from the receipt of an original bill, the [~~public utilities commission~~]
 36 **department of energy** may add to the assessment a late penalty fee and may commence an action
 37 at law for the recovery of the assessment. Within 30 days of the assessment for the first quarterly

1 payment, each public utility or other assessed entity which has any objection to the amount assessed
 2 against it for the prior fiscal year shall file with the ~~[commission]~~ **department** its objection in
 3 writing, setting out in detail the grounds upon which it is claimed that said assessment is excessive,
 4 erroneous, unlawful, or invalid. If such objections are filed, the ~~[commission]~~ **department**, after
 5 reasonable notice to the objecting public utility or other assessed entity, shall hold a hearing on such
 6 objections, and if the ~~[commission]~~ **department** finds that said assessment or any part thereof is
 7 excessive, erroneous, unlawful, or invalid, the ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall reassess the amount
 8 to be paid by such public utility or other assessed entity, and shall order that an amended bill be
 9 sent to such public utility or other assessed entity in accordance with such reassessment. The
 10 ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** shall not commence an action at law for
 11 recovery of any assessment for the first quarterly payment until any such objection has been
 12 resolved.

13 236 Public Utility Recovery of Assessment Costs. Amend RSA 363-A:6, I to read as follows:

14 I. Assessment amounts determined with reference to the revenues of competitive electric
 15 power suppliers and all assessments against regulated electric distribution utilities and electric
 16 cooperatives for which a certificate of deregulation is on file with the ~~[commission]~~ **department**
 17 shall be collected from electric customers through the distribution rates of the respective electric
 18 distribution utility or rural electric cooperative for which a certificate of deregulation is on file with
 19 the ~~[commission]~~ **department**; provided that an amount equal to the amount assessed directly to a
 20 competitive electric power supplier under RSA 363-A:2, III shall be collected from the energy service
 21 or default service customers of each electric distribution utility or rural electric cooperative for which
 22 a certificate of deregulation is on file with the ~~[commission]~~ **department**.

23 237 Complaints to and Proceedings Before the Department of Energy and the Commission.
 24 Amend the chapter title of RSA 365 to read as follows: Amend the chapter title of RSA 365 to read as
 25 follows:

26 **COMPLAINTS TO_[,] THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**
 27 **AND PROCEEDINGS BEFORE_[,] THE COMMISSION**

28 238 Complaint Against Public Utilities. Amend RSA 365:1 to read as follows:

29 365:1 Complaint Against Public Utilities. Any person may make complaint to the ~~[commission]~~
 30 **department of energy** by petition setting forth in writing any thing or act claimed to have been
 31 done or to have been omitted by any public utility in violation of any provision of law, or of the terms
 32 and conditions of its franchises or charter, or of any order of the commission.

33 239 Complaints to the Department of Energy and Proceedings Before the Commission. Amend
 34 RSA 365:2 through RSA 365:7 to read as follows:

35 365:2 Order. Thereupon the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall cause a copy of said
 36 complaint to be forwarded to the public utility complained of, which may be accompanied by an

1 order, requiring that the matters complained of be satisfied, or that the charges be answered in
2 writing within a time to be specified by the ~~[commission]~~ **department**.

3 365:3 Reparation. If the public utility complained of shall make reparation for any injury
4 alleged and shall cease to commit or to permit the violation of law, franchise, or order charged in the
5 complaint, and shall notify the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** of that fact before the time
6 allowed for answer, the ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall not be required to take any further action
7 upon the charges.

8 365:4 Investigation. If the charges are not satisfied as provided in RSA 365:3, and it shall
9 appear to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** that there are reasonable grounds therefor, it
10 shall investigate the same in such manner and by such means as it shall deem proper~~[-and, after~~
11 ~~notice and hearing, take such action within its powers as the facts justify]~~. **After investigation, the**
12 **department of energy may bring proceedings on its own motion before the public utilities**
13 **commission, with respect to any complaint or violation of any provision of law, rule, terms**
14 **and conditions of its franchises or charter, or any order of the commission.**

15 365:5 Independent Inquiry. The commission, on its own motion or upon petition of a public
16 utility, **and the department of energy** may investigate or make inquiry in a manner to be
17 determined by it as to any rate charged or proposed or as to any act or thing having been done, or
18 having been omitted or proposed by any public utility; and ~~[the commission or]~~ shall make such
19 inquiry in regard to any rate charged or proposed or to any act or thing having been done or having
20 been omitted or proposed by any such utility in violation of any provision of law or order of the
21 commission **or the department**.

22 365:6 Inspection. ~~[The]~~ **Both the commission and the department of energy** may at any time
23 personally, or by its experts or agents, inspect the property, works, system, plant, devices, appliances
24 and methods used by any public utility, or its books, papers and records.

25 365:7 Authority to Inspect. Any expert or agent of the **department of energy or the**
26 **commission**, who shall make a demand on behalf of the commission to be allowed to inspect as
27 provided in RSA 365:6, shall produce written authority to make such inspection signed by the
28 ~~[secretary or assistant secretary or some member]~~ **chairperson** of the commission **or the**
29 **commissioner of the department of energy**.

30 240 Proceedings Before the Public Utilities Commission. Amend RSA 365:8, I(j) to read as
31 follows:

32 (j) Standards and procedures for determination and recovery of rate ~~[ease]~~ **proceedings**
33 **expenses**.

34 241 Proceedings Before the Public Utilities Commission. Amend RSA 365:8, II to read as
35 follows:

36 II. Where the commission has adopted rules in conformity with this section, ~~[complaints to~~
37 ~~and]~~ proceedings before the commission shall not be subject to RSA 541-A:29 or RSA 541-A:29-a.

1 242 Repeal. The following are repealed:

2 I. RSA 365:8, I(c), relative to certain rulemaking authority of the public utilities commission.

3 II. RSA 365:8-a, relative to suppliers of natural gas and aggregators of natural gas customers.

4 243 Complaints to Department of Energy and Public Utilities Commission; Expense of
5 Investigations; Rate Proceeding. Amend RSA 365:37 and 365:38 to read as follows:

6 365:37 Expense of Investigations.

7 I. Whenever any investigation **by the commission or the department of energy** shall be
8 necessary to enable the commission to pass upon any petition for authority to issue stocks, bonds,
9 notes, or other evidence of indebtedness, for authority to operate as a public utility or to expand
10 operations as a public utility, to make extensions into new territory, to discontinue service, to
11 condemn property for flowage rights and dam construction, or for authority to sell, consolidate,
12 merge, transfer, or lease the plant, works, or system of any public utility, or any part of the same, or
13 for any other matter which requires the ~~[commission's]~~ approval **of the commission or the**
14 **department of energy**, the petitioner shall pay to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** the
15 expense involved in the investigation of the matters covered by said petition, including the amounts
16 expended for experts, accountants, or other assistants. Such expense shall not include any part of
17 the salaries or expenses of the commissioners or of employees of the commission or **department of**
18 **energy or**, unless the proceeding is being conducted pursuant to RSA 38, the fees of experts
19 testifying as to values in condemnation proceedings.

20 II. Whenever the commission institutes a proceeding, or when more than one utility subject
21 to the jurisdiction of the commission shall be involved in a proceeding in which the commission **or**
22 **the department of energy** requires the assistance of experts, accountants or other assistants,
23 regardless of whether they petitioned the commission in the first instance, the commission **and the**
24 **department of energy** may assess the costs of experts, accountants or other assistants hired by the
25 commission **or the department of energy** against the utilities and any other parties to the
26 proceeding. The commission **and the department of energy** shall not, however, assess any such
27 costs against the office of the consumer advocate or against any voluntary corporation, not-for-profit
28 organization, or any municipality unless the municipality is involved in a proceeding before the
29 commission pursuant to RSA 38. In the case of a utility, the assessment of those costs shall be based
30 on the annual revenues of the participating utilities in the same manner as issued in assessing the
31 annual operating expenses of the commission **and the department of energy**, or as appropriate
32 and equitable on a case by case basis. In the case of a party who is not a utility, the assessment of
33 those costs shall be as appropriate and equitable on a case by case basis. Such expenses shall not
34 include any part of the salaries or expenses of the commissioners or of employees of the commission
35 **or of employees of the department of energy** or, unless the proceeding is being conducted
36 pursuant to RSA 38, the fees of experts testifying as to values in condemnation proceedings.

1 III. For investigations or proceedings involving the acquisition, merger, transfer, sale, or
 2 lease of the works or system of a public utility, the commission *and the department of energy*
 3 shall not enter into a contract with experts, accountants, or other assistants in an amount greater
 4 than [~~\$250,000~~] *\$10,000*, including any contract extension, without the approval of the governor and
 5 council. For all other investigations or proceedings, the commission *and the department of energy*
 6 shall not enter into a contract with experts, accountants, or other assistants in an amount greater
 7 than [~~\$100,000~~] *\$10,000*, including any contract extension, without the approval of governor and
 8 council.

9 365:38 Rate Proceeding. Whenever any investigation *or proceeding* shall be necessary to
 10 enable the commission to pass upon the reasonableness of the rates or charges by a public utility, the
 11 utility [~~upon order of the commission,~~] shall pay to the [~~commission its~~] *department of energy the*
 12 expenses involved in the investigation, including the amounts expended by it for attorneys, experts,
 13 accountants, or other assistants, but not including any part of the salaries or expenses of the
 14 commissioners or of employees of the commission *or department of energy*; provided, that the
 15 amount charged to the utility [~~by the commission~~] in any such case shall not exceed 3/4 of one
 16 percent of the existing valuation of the utility investigated, such expenses with 6 percent interest to
 17 be charged by the utility to operating expenses and amortized over such period as the commission
 18 shall deem proper and allowed for in the rates to be charged by the utility.

19 244 Complaints to Department of Energy and Public Utilities Commission; Penalty Against
 20 Utility. Amend RSA 365:41 to read as follows:

21 365:41 Penalty Against Utility. Any public utility which shall violate any provisions of this title,
 22 or fails, omits or neglects to obey, observe or comply with any order, direction or requirement of the
 23 commission *or the department of energy*, shall be subject to a civil penalty, as determined by the
 24 commission, not to exceed \$250,000 or 2.5 percent of the annual gross revenue that the utility
 25 received from sales in the state, whichever is lower. Such penalties shall be applied to the benefit of
 26 the utility's ratepayers through a credit to bills, or, if the credit is of an amount determined by the
 27 commission to be insignificant on a per customer basis, to programs that benefit low income
 28 ratepayers. No portion of any fine, nor any costs associated with an administrative or court
 29 proceeding which results in a fine pursuant to this section, shall be considered by the commission in
 30 fixing any temporary, permanent, or emergency rates or charges of such utility.

31 245 Affiliates of Public Utilities; Department of Energy. Amend RSA 366:2 through 366:9 to
 32 read as follows:

33 366:2 Sale of Securities to or by Employees. No public utility shall, without the approval of the
 34 [~~commission~~] *department of energy*, permit any employee to sell, offer for sale, or solicit the
 35 purchase of any security issued by an affiliate during such hours as such employee is engaged to
 36 perform any duty of such public utility; nor shall any public utility by any means or device
 37 whatsoever require any employee to purchase or contract to purchase any of its securities or those of

1 any other person or corporation; nor shall any public utility require any employee to permit the
 2 deduction from his wages or salary of any sum as a payment or to be applied as a payment on any
 3 purchase or contract to purchase any security of such public utility or of any other person.

4 366:3 Filing of Contracts. The original or a verified copy of any contract or arrangement and of
 5 any modification thereof or a verified summary of any unwritten contract or arrangement, the
 6 consideration of which exceeds \$500, hereafter entered into between a public utility and an affiliate
 7 providing for the furnishing of managerial, supervisory, construction, engineering, accounting,
 8 purchasing, financial, or any other services either to or by a public utility or an affiliate shall be filed
 9 by the public utility with the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** within 10 days after the date on
 10 which the contract is executed or the arrangement entered into. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** may
 11 also require a public utility to file in such form as the ~~[commission]~~ **department** may require full
 12 information with respect to any purchase from or sale to an affiliate, whether or not made in
 13 pursuance of a continuing contract or arrangement.

14 366:4 Failure to File. Any contract or arrangement not filed with the ~~[commission]~~ **department**
 15 **of energy** pursuant to RSA 366:3 shall be unenforceable in any court in this state and payments
 16 thereunder may be disallowed by the ~~[commission]~~ **department** unless the later filing thereof is
 17 approved in writing by the ~~[commission]~~ **department**. **The commission shall disallow payment**
 18 **if recommended by the department.**

19 366:5 Investigation and Proof. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall have full power
 20 and authority to investigate any such contract, arrangement, purchase, or sale and ~~[if]~~ **initiate a**
 21 **proceeding related thereto before the commission.** **If** the commission after notice and hearing
 22 shall find any such contract, arrangement, purchase, or sale to be unjust or unreasonable, the
 23 commission may make such reasonable order relating thereto as the public good requires. In any
 24 such investigation, the burden shall be on the public utility and affiliate to prove the reasonableness
 25 of any such contract, arrangement, purchase, or sale with, from, or to an affiliate. If the public
 26 utility shall fail to satisfy the commission of the reasonableness of any such contract, arrangement,
 27 purchase, or sale, the commission may disapprove the same and disallow payments thereunder or
 28 such part of any such payment as the commission shall find to be unjust or unreasonable. No
 29 payment disallowed by the commission shall be capitalized or included as an operating cost of the
 30 public utility in the fixing of rates or as an asset in fixing a rate base. If in any such investigation
 31 the public utility or affiliate shall unreasonably refuse to comply with any request of the commission
 32 **or the department** for information with respect to relevant accounts and records, whether of such
 33 public utility or any affiliate, any portion of which may be applicable to any transaction under
 34 investigation, so that such parts thereof as the commission **or the department** may deem material
 35 may be made part of the record, such refusal shall justify the commission in disapproving the
 36 transaction under investigation and disallowing payments in pursuance thereof.

1 366:6 Summary Order in Certain Cases. If as a result of an investigation *or proceeding* in
2 accordance with RSA 366:5 the commission shall find that any public utility is making any payment
3 or about to make any payment or doing or about to do any other thing which substantially threatens
4 or impairs the ability of the public utility to render adequate service at reasonable rates or otherwise
5 to discharge its duty to the public, the commission may apply to the superior court for an order
6 directing the public utility to cease making any such payment or doing such other thing; and,
7 thereupon, the court shall make such order as the public good may require.

8 366:7 Disallowance of Charges Under Existing Contracts. In any proceeding whether upon the
9 *department's initiation or* commission's own motion or upon complaint involving the rates or
10 practices of any public utility, the commission may disallow the inclusion in the accounts of a public
11 utility of any payments or compensation to an affiliate for any services rendered, or property
12 furnished, under existing contracts or arrangements with an affiliate unless such public utility shall
13 establish the reasonableness of such payment or compensation.

14 366:8 Annual Reports. Every public utility annually reporting to the commission *or*
15 *department of energy* under RSA 374 shall also annually report the name and address of, and the
16 number of shares held by, its officers and directors and each holder of one percent or more of the
17 voting capital stock of the reporting public utility according to its records.

18 366:9 Information Concerning Control. The commission *or department of energy* may also
19 require such other information as to the direct or indirect control of a public utility or affiliate from a
20 public utility, affiliate, or other person as may be reasonably required for the effective enforcement of
21 this chapter.

22 246 References Change; Service Equipment of Public Utilities; Department of Energy. Amend
23 the following RSA provisions by replacing "commission" with "department of energy": 370:2, 370:8,
24 370:9.

25 247 Service Equipment of Public Utilities; Units of Service. Amend RSA 370:1 to read as
26 follows:

27 370:1 Units of Service. The [~~public utilities commission~~] *department of energy* may ascertain,
28 determine and fix, for each kind of public utility, suitable and convenient standard commercial units
29 of service, product or commodity, which units shall be lawful units for the purposes of this chapter.

30 248 Service Equipment of Public Utilities; Department of Energy. Amend RSA 370:3 through
31 370:7 to read as follows:

32 370:3 Meters. The [~~commission~~] *department of energy* may ascertain, determine and fix
33 reasonable rules, regulations, specifications and standards to secure the accuracy of all meters and
34 appliances for measurement, and every public utility is required to carry into effect all orders issued
35 by the [~~commission~~] *department* relative thereto.

36 370:4 Service Inspections. The [~~commission~~] *department of energy* may provide for the
37 inspection of the manner in which every public utility conforms to the reasonable regulations

1 prescribed by the ~~[commission]~~ **department** for examination and testing of its service, product or
 2 commodity, and for the measurement thereof, and may supplement such inspections by
 3 examinations and testing.

4 370:5 Inspection of Meters. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** may provide for the
 5 inspection of the manner in which every public utility has carried into effect the reasonable rules,
 6 regulations, specifications and standards fixed by ~~[orders of the commission]~~ **rules adopted by the**
 7 **department** relative thereto, and may examine and test any meters and appliances for
 8 measurements under such reasonable rules and regulations as it may prescribe.

9 370:6 Testing Appliances. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** may provide for the examination and
 10 testing of any appliances used for the measuring of any service, product or commodity of a public
 11 utility.

12 370:7 At Consumer's Request. Any consumer or user may have any such appliance tested by the
 13 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** may declare and establish
 14 reasonable fees to be paid for examining and testing such appliances on the request of consumers or
 15 users, the fee to be paid by the consumer or user at the time of his request; but, if the measuring
 16 appliance be found unreasonably defective or incorrect to the disadvantage of the consumer or user,
 17 the ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall repay such fee to the consumer or user and collect the same
 18 from the public utility.

19 249 Rights in Public Waters and Lands; License by Notification of New Attachments on Existing
 20 Utility Poles. Amend RSA 371:17-a to read as follows:

21 371:17-a License by Notification of New Attachments on Existing Utility Poles. Whenever it is
 22 necessary, in order to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public, that any public
 23 utility other than electric or gas should construct a cable, conduit, or wires and fixtures upon an
 24 existing line of poles or towers over, under, or across any of the public waters of this state, or over,
 25 under, or across any of the land owned by this state, the public utility shall file written notification
 26 with the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** for a license to construct and maintain such cable,
 27 conduit, or wires and fixtures. In this section, "public waters" means all ponds of more than 10
 28 acres, tidewater bodies, and such streams or portions thereof as the commission may prescribe.
 29 Every corporation and individual desiring to cross any public waters or land for the purposes of this
 30 section shall file written notification in the same manner prescribed for a public utility. The
 31 notification shall include a description of the specific geographic and pole locations of the crossing
 32 and verification that there is a valid pole attachment license or that an application for a pole
 33 attachment license has been submitted to the utility or utilities that own such poles or towers. The
 34 notification shall include an affidavit signed by the responsible officer confirming that the crossing
 35 shall be completed in compliance with such pole attachment license and the National Electrical
 36 Safety Code. Upon receipt of such notification, no further inquiries or investigations by the
 37 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall be required in granting the requested license.

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1 250 Rights in Public Waters and Lands; License by Notification of Existing Crossings on
2 Existing Poles. Amend RSA 371:17-b to read as follows:

3 371:17-b License by Notification of Existing Crossings on Existing Poles. Existing crossings on
4 existing poles as of the effective date of this section, not previously licensed, shall be considered
5 temporarily licensed without further inquiries or investigations. Any party seeking a license under
6 this section shall file a complete list identifying the specific geographic and pole locations of each
7 existing crossing with the commission within 2 years of the effective date of this section. Upon
8 receipt of such list, no further inquiries or investigations by the commission shall be undertaken and
9 the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall issue a final license. Any temporary license shall
10 expire upon the issuance of a final license.

11 251 Rights in Public Waters and Lands; Hearing; Order. Amend RSA 371:20 to read as follows:

12 371:20 Hearing; Order. *Whenever a hearing shall be necessary*, the commission shall hear
13 all parties interested; and, in case it shall find that the license petitioned for, subject to such
14 modifications and conditions, if any, and for such period as the commission may determine, may be
15 exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in said waters or lands, it shall render
16 judgment granting such license. Provided, however, that such license may be granted *by the*
17 **department of energy** without hearing when all interested parties are in agreement and in cases
18 involving filings made under RSA 371:17-a and RSA 371:17-b. ~~[The executive director of the~~
19 ~~commission may issue licenses under RSA 371:17-a and RSA 371:17-b.]~~

20 252 References Changed; Proceedings to Acquire Property or Rights; Rights in Public Waters
21 and Lands; Department of Energy. Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing "commission"
22 with "department of energy": 371:17, 371:18, 371:19.

23 253 Extent of Power. Amend RSA 374:3 to read as follows:

24 374:3 Extent of Power. The public utilities commission *and department of energy* shall have
25 the general supervision of all public utilities and the plants owned, operated or controlled by the
26 same so far as necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this title.

27 254 Supervisory Power of Department of Energy and Public Utilities Commission. Amend the
28 subdivision heading following RSA 374:3-b to read as follows:

29 Supervisory Power of Department of ~~[Transportation]~~

30 **Energy and Public Utilities Commission**

31 255 Duties. Amend RSA 374:4-374:5-a to read as follows:

32 374:4 Duty to Keep Informed. The commission *and the department of energy* shall have
33 power, and it shall be ~~[its]~~ *their* duty, to keep informed as to all public utilities in the state, their
34 capitalization, franchises and the manner in which the lines and property controlled or operated by
35 them are managed and operated, not only with respect to the safety, adequacy and accommodation
36 offered by their service, but also with respect to their compliance with all provisions of law, orders of
37 the commission and charter requirements.

1 374:5 Additions and Improvements. For the purpose of enabling the commission *and the*
 2 *department of energy* to perform [its] *their* duty to keep informed as provided in RSA 374:4, every
 3 public utility, before making any addition, extension, or capital improvement to its fixed property in
 4 this state, except under emergency conditions, shall report to the commission *and the department*
 5 *of energy* the probable cost of such addition, extension, or capital improvement whenever the
 6 probable cost thereof exceeds a reasonable amount to be prescribed by general or special order of the
 7 commission. For this purpose, the commission may classify public utilities according to the amount
 8 of their respective fixed capital accounts, and prescribe a reasonable limitation for each such
 9 classification. In no case shall the minimum amount prescribed be less than 1/4 of one percent of
 10 such fixed capital account as of December 31 of the preceding year, or \$10,000, whichever is the
 11 smaller amount. Reports shall be filed in writing [~~with the commission~~] within such reasonable time
 12 as may be prescribed by the commission before starting actual construction on any addition,
 13 extension, or improvement. The commission shall have discretion to exclude the cost of any such
 14 addition, extension, or capital improvement from the rate base of said utility where such written
 15 report thereof shall not have been filed in advance as herein provided.

16 374:5-a Power to Hire Consultants Firm. The commission *and the department of energy* may
 17 utilize and employ a consultant firm to provide it with technical assistance in evaluating cost factors
 18 relating to the effective use of substantial investments of utilities regulated by the commission.

19 256 Investigation of Other Utilities; Orders; Violation. Amend RSA 374:7-374:7-a to read as
 20 follows:

21 374:7 Investigation of Other Utilities; Orders. The commission *and the department of energy*
 22 shall have power to investigate and ascertain, from time to time, the quality of gas supplied by
 23 public utilities and the methods employed by public utilities in manufacturing, transmitting or
 24 supplying gas or electricity for light, heat or power, or in transmitting telephone and telegraph
 25 messages, or supplying water, and, after notice and hearing thereon, shall have power to order all
 26 reasonable and just improvements and extensions in service or methods.

27 374:7-a Violation.

28 I. Any person who knowingly or willfully violates any provision of RSA 370:2 or any
 29 standards or rules adopted under it by the public utilities commission *or the department of*
 30 *energy*, relative to gas pipelines and liquefied petroleum gas systems pursuant to the Natural Gas
 31 Pipeline Safety Act, shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed the maximum civil penalty under
 32 49 U.S.C. section 60122(a), as amended.

33 II. Any person who otherwise violates any provision of RSA 370:2 or any standards or rules
 34 adopted under it by the public utilities commission *or the department of energy*, relative to gas
 35 pipelines and liquefied petroleum gas systems pursuant to the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act,
 36 shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed the maximum civil penalty under 49 U.S.C. section
 37 60122(a), as amended.

1 III. *The department of energy shall assess and enforce civil penalties related to this*
 2 *section.* Any civil penalty assessed under this section may be [~~compromised~~] *appealed to the*
 3 *public utilities commission, and the commission may uphold, reverse, or compromise such*
 4 *civil penalty* [~~by the public utilities commission~~]. In determining the amount of the penalty, *the*
 5 *outcome of an appeal*, or the amount agreed upon in compromise, the appropriateness of the
 6 penalty to the size of the business of the person charged, the gravity of the violation, the good faith of
 7 the person charged in attempting to achieve compliance, after notification of a violation, the degree
 8 of culpability of the person, the history of prior violations, the effect of the penalty on the person, and
 9 any other identifiable factor related to the circumstances of the person and the nature and
 10 circumstances of the violation, shall be considered. The amount of the penalty, when finally
 11 determined, or the amount agreed upon in compromise, may be deducted from any sums owing by
 12 the state to the person charged or may be recovered in a civil action in the state courts.

13 257 Public Utilities; Reports; Filing. Amend RSA 374:15 to read as follows:

14 374:15 Filing. Every public utility shall file with the commission *and the department of*
 15 *energy* reports at such times, verified by oath in such manner, and setting forth such statistics and
 16 facts, as may be required by the commission *or the department of energy*.

17 258 Public Utilities; Reports. Amend RSA 374:17-374:19 to read as follows:

18 374:17 Neglect to Report. If any public utility shall neglect or refuse to make and file any report
 19 within a time specified by the commission *or the department of energy*, or shall neglect or refuse
 20 to make specific answer to any question lawfully asked by the commission *or the department of*
 21 *energy*, it shall forfeit to the state the sum of \$100 for each day it shall continue to be in default with
 22 respect to such report or answer, unless it shall be excused [~~by the commission~~] from making such
 23 report or answer, or unless the time for making the same shall be extended [~~by the commission~~].

24 374:18 Production of Books, Etc. The commission, by order, *or the department of energy*, may
 25 require any public utility to produce within the state, at such time and place as it may designate,
 26 any accounts, records, memoranda, books, or papers kept in any office or place without the state, or
 27 verified copies thereof, in order that an examination thereof may be made by the commission or
 28 under its direction.

29 374:19 False Statements, Etc. No public utility shall willfully make any false statement or false
 30 entry in any report to the commission *or the department of energy*, or in any answer to any
 31 question lawfully asked by the commission *or the department of energy*.

32 259 Service Territories; Department of Energy Jurisdiction. Amend RSA 374:22-e to read as
 33 follows:

34 374:22-e Service Territories; [~~Commission~~] *Department of Energy* Jurisdiction.

35 I. If 2 or more telephone utilities find that they provide the same service in the same area or
 36 that existing maps create overlapping service territories, the [~~commission~~] *department of energy*,
 37 upon application by one or both of the affected utilities, shall define, alter, or establish service

1 territories. In establishing or altering service territories, the [~~commission~~] *department of energy*
2 shall consider the following:

3 (a) Existing service areas;

4 (b) Any voluntary agreements between or among 2 or more such telephone utilities
5 which define the service territories of those utilities;

6 (c) Consistency with the orderly development of the region;

7 (d) Natural geographical boundaries;

8 (e) Compatibility with the interests of all consumers; and

9 (f) All other relevant factors.

10 II. The [~~commission~~] *department of energy* shall have power to exercise the jurisdiction
11 conferred in this section only after due notice to all interested parties and hearing. After
12 consideration of the factors established by paragraph I of this section, and after making findings that
13 the service territories established or altered are consistent with the public good, the [~~commission~~]
14 *department of energy* shall establish the service territory of each telephone utility. The service
15 territory thus established shall be sufficiently definite and precise so that its boundaries may be
16 accurately determined.

17 260 Service Territories Served by Certain Telephone Utilities. Amend RSA 374:22-g to read as
18 follows:

19 374:22-g Service Territories Served by Certain Telephone Utilities.

20 I. To the extent consistent with federal law and notwithstanding any other provision of law
21 to the contrary, all telephone franchise areas served by a telephone utility that provides local
22 exchange service, subject to the jurisdiction of the [~~commission~~] *department of energy*, shall be
23 nonexclusive. The [~~commission~~] *department of energy*, upon petition or on its own motion, shall
24 have the authority to authorize the providing of telecommunications services, including local
25 exchange services, and any other telecommunications services, by more than one provider, in any
26 service territory, when the [~~commission~~] *department of energy* finds and determines that it is
27 consistent with the public good unless prohibited by federal law.

28 II. In determining the public good, the commission shall consider the interests of
29 competition with other factors including, but not limited to, fairness; economic efficiency; universal
30 service; carrier of last resort obligations; the incumbent utility's opportunity to realize a reasonable
31 return on its investment; and the recovery from competitive providers of expenses incurred by the
32 incumbent utility to benefit competitive providers, taking into account the proportionate benefit or
33 savings, if any, derived by the incumbent as a result of incurring such expenses.

34 III. The *department of energy* shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the
35 enforcement of this section.

36 261 Shared Tenant Services Authorized; Limited Regulation; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 374:22-l
37 and m to read as follows:

1 374:22-l Shared Tenant Services Authorized; Limited Regulation.

2 I. The ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** shall authorize the provision of
3 shared tenant services by providers meeting the minimum requirements established by the
4 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** to operate shared tenant services networks.

5 II. Providers of shared tenant services shall be subject to the following limited regulation by
6 the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**:

7 (a) Providers of shared tenant services shall disclose to tenants and prospective tenants
8 all pricing information relative to their services in the manner prescribed by the ~~[commission]~~
9 **department of energy**.

10 (b) Providers of shared tenant services shall disclose to tenants and prospective tenants
11 that they can at their option obtain basic exchange and other service from an authorized local
12 telephone utility rather than from the shared tenant services provider.

13 (c) Without penalty and in accordance with the rules of the ~~[commission]~~ **department of**
14 **energy**, telephone number retention and access to telecommunications services shall be permitted by
15 providers of shared tenant services and authorized local telephone utilities into and out of shared
16 tenant services properties.

17 (d) The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall have jurisdiction to hear matters
18 pertaining to the unauthorized provision of shared tenant services, violations of ~~[commission]~~
19 **department** rules relating to shared tenant services, and customer complaints against shared
20 tenant services providers.

21 374:22-m Rulemaking. The ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** shall adopt
22 rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to:

23 I. Minimum requirements for shared tenant services, including disclosure of available
24 options and terms and prices of shared tenant services.

25 II. Customer access to services of authorized local telephone utilities.

26 III. Telephone number retention and recovery of costs, if any, associated with number
27 retention.

28 IV. The charges a local telephone utility establishes for a shared tenant services provider to
29 purchase services for use by the provider's tenants.

30 V. Procedures for complaints to the ~~[commission]~~ **department** regarding shared tenant
31 services.

32 262 Regulation of Competitive Telecommunications Providers Limited; Affordable Telephone
33 Service; Public Interest Payphones. Amend RSA 374:22-o-374:22-q to read as follows:

34 374:22-o Regulation of Competitive Telecommunications Providers Limited. Any person or
35 business entity authorized by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** to engage in business as a
36 competitive local exchange carrier and any competitive toll provider having less than a 10 percent
37 share of toll revenue in New Hampshire shall not be required to seek prior ~~[commission]~~

1 **department** approval of financings or corporate organizational changes, including, without
2 limitation, mergers, acquisitions, corporate restructurings, issuance or transfer of securities, or the
3 sale, lease, or other transfer of assets or control. Nothing in this section shall exempt any such
4 competitive telecommunications service provider from such advance notice as the ~~commission~~
5 **department** may prescribe or from the requirements of RSA 374:28-a or RSA 378:46.

6 374:22-p Affordable Telephone Service; Rulemaking; Standards.

7 I.(a) For the purposes of this section, "Federal Telecommunications Act" means the federal
8 Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56.

9 (b) For purposes of this section "basic service" means:

- 10 (1) Safe and reliable single-party, single line voice service;
- 11 (2) The ability to receive all noncollect calls, at telephone lines capable of receiving
12 calls, without additional charge;
- 13 (3) The ability to complete calls to any other telephone line, which is capable of
14 receiving calls, in the state;
- 15 (4) The opportunity to presubscribe to interLATA toll carriers;
- 16 (5) The opportunity to presubscribe to intraLATA toll carriers;
- 17 (6) Dialing parity;
- 18 (7) Number portability;
- 19 (8) Enhanced 911, pursuant to the requirements of the department of safety, bureau
20 of emergency communications, or its successor agency;
- 21 (9) Access to statewide directory assistance;
- 22 (10) Telecommunications relay service (TRS);
- 23 (11) A published directory listing, at the customer's election;
- 24 (12) A caller identification blocking option, on a per-call basis;
- 25 (13) A caller identification line blocking option that is available to all customers
26 without a recurring charge and is provided upon customer request without charge to customers who
27 have elected nonpublished telephone numbers and is available without a nonrecurring charge to
28 customers who certify that caller identification threatens their health or safety and is available
29 without a nonrecurring charge when requested with installation of basic service;
- 30 (14) A blocking option for pay-per-call calls, such as blocking all 900 or all 976 area
31 code calls;
- 32 (15) The ability to report service problems to the customer's basic service provider on
33 a 24-hour basis, 7 days a week; and
- 34 (16) Automatic Number Identification (ANI) to other carriers which accurately
35 identifies the telephone number of the calling party.

1 (c) Any combination of basic service along with any other service or feature offered by
2 the telecommunications service provider is nonbasic service and shall not be regulated by the
3 commission.

4 (d) Any telecommunications service provider which is not an incumbent local exchange
5 carrier shall not be required to provide basic service.

6 II. Subject to RSA 362:6, the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall require every
7 provider of intrastate telephone service to participate in outreach programs designed to increase the
8 number of low-income telephone customers on the network through increased participation in any
9 universal service program approved by the ~~[commission]~~ **department** and statutorily established by
10 the legislature. Statewide outreach programs shall continue until further order of the ~~[commission]~~
11 **department**.

12 III. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall seek to ensure that affordable basic
13 telephone services are available to consumers throughout all areas of the state at reasonably
14 comparable rates.

15 IV.(a) The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall ~~[develop-draft]~~ **maintain and**
16 **update** rules to implement this section and shall, after the statutory establishment of a universal
17 service fund, require every provider of intrastate telephone services to contribute to a state universal
18 service fund to support programs consistent with the goals of applicable provisions of this title and
19 the Federal Telecommunications Act.

20 (b) If the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**, upon statutory establishment of a
21 universal service program, establishes a state universal service fund pursuant to this section, the
22 ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall contract with an appropriate independent fiscal agent that is not a
23 state entity to serve as administrator of the state universal service fund. Program administration
24 shall be designed in the most cost-effective manner possible. Funds contributed to a state universal
25 service fund are not state funds and therefore are not subject to provisions of law relating to the
26 general fund. Rules and any state universal service fund requirements established by legislative
27 enactment and by the ~~[commission]~~ **department** pursuant to this section shall:

28 (1) Be reasonably designed to maximize federal assistance available to the state for
29 universal service purposes.

30 (2) Meet the state's obligations under the Federal Telecommunications Act.

31 (3) Be consistent with the goals of the Federal Telecommunications Act.

32 (4) Ensure that any requirements regarding contributions to a state universal
33 service fund be nondiscriminatory and competitively neutral.

34 (5) Require explicit identification on customer's bills of contributions to and in the
35 event of fund termination, refunds from, any state universal service fund established pursuant to the
36 section.

1 (6) Allow consideration in appropriate rulemaking proceedings of contributions to
 2 and in the event of fund termination, refunds from, any state universal service fund established
 3 pursuant to this section.

4 (c) For purposes of this section, "providers of intrastate telephone services" includes
 5 providers of radio paging service and, subject to the provisions of the Federal Communications Act as
 6 amended and codified at 47 U.S.C. sec. 332(c)(3)(A), mobile telecommunications services.

7 (d) Prior to requiring that providers of intrastate telephone service contribute to a state
 8 universal service fund and prior to statutory establishment of a universal service fund, the
 9 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall report to the general court its determination of the
 10 expected program costs, the amount and type of the funding mechanism, the number of people
 11 proposed to be served, the level of proposed service, and the administrative design of the proposed
 12 fund.

13 V. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**, annually, shall assess the penetration rate of
 14 basic telephone services. If this penetration rate ever falls below the national average penetration
 15 rate, the ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall commence an investigation and take steps to enhance
 16 telephone market penetration. The ~~[commission]~~ **department**, annually, shall assess the success of
 17 any action taken by the ~~[commission]~~ **department** to achieve the purpose of this section. The public
 18 policy goal should be to raise the low income penetration level as close as reasonably possible to the
 19 statewide average.

20 VI, VII. [Repealed.]

21 VIII. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 374:1-a:

22 (a) Incumbent local exchange carriers, whether qualified as an excepted local exchange
 23 carrier or otherwise, may not discontinue residential basic service, regardless of technology used, in
 24 any portion of their franchise area unless the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** determines that
 25 the public good will not be adversely affected by such withdrawal of service;

26 (b) Rates for basic service of incumbent local exchange carriers which qualify as
 27 excepted local exchange carriers may not increase by more than 5 percent for Lifeline Telephone
 28 Assistance customers and by more than 10 percent for all other basic service customers in each of
 29 the 8 years after the effective date of this paragraph or the effective date of an existing alternative
 30 plan of regulation, except for additional rate adjustments, with ~~[public utilities commission]~~
 31 **department of energy** review and approval, to reflect changes in federal, state, or local government
 32 taxes, mandates, rules, regulations, or statutes; and

33 (c) Incumbent local exchange carriers which qualify as excepted local exchange carriers
 34 shall report the rates for basic service to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** within 60 days of
 35 the effective date of this paragraph and upon any changes to the rates.

36 374:22-q Public Interest Payphones.

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1 I. There is hereby established a public interest payphone fund into which shall only be
2 deposited moneys received pursuant to RSA 471-C:8, IV and this paragraph. The state treasurer
3 may invest moneys in the fund as provided by law, with interest received on such investment
4 credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the
5 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** to be used only to fund the maintenance of public interest
6 payphones. At the end of each biennium, any moneys in excess of \$30,000 shall be transferred to the
7 general fund.

8 II. "Public interest payphone" means a payphone or payphone site which the ~~[commission]~~
9 **department of energy** has determined to be necessary in the interest of public health, safety, or
10 welfare, where there would otherwise not be a payphone, in accordance with 47 U.S.C. section
11 276(b)(2). The owner or person in control of the payphone site may object in writing to the
12 ~~[commission]~~ **department** to the designation of the public interest payphone. The ~~[commission]~~
13 **department** shall not designate a payphone or payphone site as a public interest payphone if such
14 objection is received by the ~~[commission]~~ **department** prior to designation; if the objection is
15 received after designation, the ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall remove the designation immediately
16 upon receipt of the objection. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall make payment of fair
17 compensation from the fund to providers of payphones that have been designated by the
18 ~~[commission]~~ **department** as public interest payphones, where such providers are required by the
19 ~~[commission]~~ **department** to maintain the payphones. No other state or state associated funds shall
20 be used to maintain public interest payphones other than those contained in the fund, without
21 further authorization from the legislature.

22 III. Any public utility or non-utility pay telephone services provider that operates any plant
23 or equipment or any part of same for the conveyance of telephone or telegraph messages that elects
24 to remove the last pay telephone at a site shall provide prior written notice to the ~~[commission]~~
25 **department of energy**, to the owner of the property where the payphone is located, and to the
26 public of the intended removal of the payphone. The provider shall notify the ~~[commission]~~
27 **department** and the owner at least 60 days prior to removal. Posting notice on the payphone at
28 least 30 days prior to removal shall constitute adequate public notice. The notice shall include
29 notification that any person may file a petition with the ~~[commission]~~ **department** to designate the
30 payphone as a public interest payphone. Once a payphone or payphone site has been designated as a
31 public interest payphone, the payphone may not be removed unless the ~~[commission]~~ **department**
32 removes the public interest payphone designation. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall adopt rules,
33 pursuant to RSA 541-A, to implement this subdivision.

34 263 Pole Attachments. Amend RSA 374:34-a to read as follows:

35 374:34-a Pole Attachments.

36 I. In this subdivision, a "pole" means any pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way that is used for
37 wire communications or electricity distribution and is owned in whole or in part by a public utility,

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1 including a rural electric cooperative for which a certificate of deregulation is on file with the
2 commission pursuant to RSA 301:57.

3 II. Whenever a pole owner is unable to reach agreement with a party seeking pole
4 attachments, the commission shall regulate and enforce rates, charges, terms, and conditions for
5 such pole attachments, with regard to the types of attachments regulated under 47 U.S.C. section
6 224, to provide that such rates, charges, terms, and conditions are just and reasonable. This
7 authority shall include but not be limited to the state regulatory authority referenced in 47 U.S.C.
8 section 224(c).

9 III. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A to carry
10 out the provisions of this section, including appropriate formula or formulae for apportioning costs.

11 IV. In exercising its authority under this subdivision, the ~~[commission]~~ **department of**
12 **energy** shall consider the interests of the subscribers and users of the services offered via such
13 attachments, as well as the interests of the consumers of any pole owner providing such
14 attachments.

15 V. Nothing in this subdivision shall prevent parties from entering into pole attachment
16 agreements voluntarily, without commission approval.

17 VI. Any pole owner shall provide nondiscriminatory access to its poles for the types of
18 attachments regulated under this subdivision. A pole owner may deny access to its poles on a
19 nondiscriminatory basis where there is insufficient capacity and for reasons of safety, reliability, and
20 generally applicable engineering purposes.

21 VII. The commission shall have the authority to hear and resolve complaints concerning
22 rates, charges, terms, conditions, voluntary agreements, or any denial of access relative to pole
23 attachments.

24 VIII. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall retain its authority to regulate the
25 safety, vegetation management, emergency response, and storm restoration requirements for poles,
26 conduits, ducts, pipes, pole attachments, wires, cables, and related plant and equipment of public
27 utilities and other private entities located within public rights-of-way and on, over, or under state
28 lands and water bodies.

29 264 Investigations; Orders. Amend RSA 374:36 to read as follows:

30 374:36 Investigations; Orders. The commission **and the department of energy** may, of ~~[its]~~
31 **their** own motion or on application of any person, investigate or make inquiry, in a manner to be
32 determined by ~~[it]~~ **them**, as to the existence of an available market at fair rates within the state;
33 and, if ~~[it]~~ **the commission** shall find that such a market does not exist within a reasonable distance
34 of the power development, it may make an order granting such permission and may impose the
35 condition that consumers within the state shall be furnished service by said corporation upon terms
36 as favorable as shall be granted to consumers outside the state, having due regard to all facts and
37 conditions which may affect the subject; provided, that nothing in this section shall apply to

1 corporations engaged in the business of transmitting such electrical energy to any place outside the
2 state on May 15, 1911; but any addition to such energy generated from any water-power, except such
3 as it was using in connection with such business on that date, shall come under the provisions of this
4 section; provided, further, that the provisions of this section shall not prevent any railroad doing
5 business in this state from transmitting electrical energy beyond the confines of the state for the
6 purpose of operating its road between and some point in this state and any point outside the state.

7 265 Investigation of Accidents. Amend RSA 374:37-374:40 to read as follows:

8 374:37 By ~~[Commission]~~ **Department**. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall
9 investigate the causes of all accidents in connection with the operation of public utilities in the state,
10 which, in the opinion of the commission **or the department of energy**, ought to be investigated.

11 374:38 Manner. Any such investigation may be made by the ~~[full commission]~~ **department of**
12 **energy** ~~[, or by a single commissioner, or by an agent of the commission,]~~ in such manner as the
13 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** may determine.

14 374:39 Reports. Every public utility shall report to the **department of energy and the**
15 commission accidents occurring in connection with the operation of its business wherein loss of life
16 occurs or any person is injured, or of such a nature as to endanger the safety, health or property of
17 its consumers or the public, as and whenever directed by such rules and regulations as the
18 **department of energy and the** commission may prescribe.

19 374:40 Publicity. Reports of accidents filed under RSA 374:39 shall not be made public
20 otherwise than in the published reports of the commission **or the department of energy**.

21 266 New Paragraph; Definitions. Amend RSA 374:48 by inserting after paragraph II the
22 following new paragraph:

23 II-a. "Department" means the department of energy.

24 267 Rulemaking. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 374:50 to read as follows:

25 The ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to:

26 268 Civil Penalty. Amend RSA 374:55 to read as follows

27 374:55 Civil Penalty.

28 I. Proof that an excavation has been made without compliance with the notice requirement
29 of RSA 374:51 and that damage to an underground facility has occurred shall be prima facie
30 evidence in any court or administrative proceeding that the damage was caused by the negligence of
31 the excavator.

32 II. Any excavator who does not give notice of or identify the proposed excavation area as
33 required by RSA 374:51 or rules of the ~~[commission]~~ **department** regarding tolerance zones and
34 marking procedures shall be subject to the penalties in paragraph VIII, in addition to any liability
35 for the actual damages.

1 III. Any operator which does not mark the location of its underground facilities as required
2 by RSA 374:53 or rules of the [~~commission~~] **department** regarding tolerance zones and marking
3 procedures shall be subject to the penalties in paragraph VIII.

4 IV. If underground facilities are damaged because an operator does not mark its
5 underground facilities as required by RSA 374:53, the operator shall be subject to the penalties in
6 paragraph VIII, liable for damages sustained to its facilities and, in addition, shall be liable for any
7 damages incurred by the excavator as a result of the operator's failure to mark such facilities.

8 V. If marked underground facilities are damaged, the excavator shall be subject to the
9 penalties in paragraph VIII and liable for the cost of repairs for the damage.

10 VI. Any excavator who damages an underground facility and fails to notify the operator, or
11 backfills the excavation without receiving permission, as required by RSA 374:54, shall be subject to
12 the penalties in paragraph VIII.

13 VII. The [~~commission~~] **department** or any [~~commission~~] **department** employee, involved in
14 an underground facility damage prevention program approved by the [~~commission~~] **department** and
15 designated by the [~~commission~~] **department**, may enforce violations of this subdivision. Any
16 excavator or operator that violates this subdivision shall be subject to the penalties in paragraph
17 VIII. In addition, the [~~commission~~] **department** may assess the excavator for expenditures made to
18 collect the civil penalty. Any excavator or operator which suffers damage resulting from violation of
19 this subdivision may petition the [~~commission~~] **department** to initiate an enforcement action.

20 VIII. Any excavator or operator that does not comply with RSA 374:51 through 374:54 shall
21 be required either to complete an underground facility damage prevention program approved by the
22 [~~commission~~] **department**, or to pay a civil penalty of up to \$500. The civil penalty may be up to
23 \$5,000 if the excavator or operator previously violated RSA 374:51 through 374:54 within the prior
24 12 months or if the violation results in bodily injury or property damages exceeding \$50,000,
25 excluding utility costs. This paragraph shall not apply to a homeowner excavating on his or her own
26 property or to a legal occupant of residential property excavating on the property of his or her
27 primary residence with the permission of the owner.

28 269 Telephone Number Conservation and Area Code Implementation Policy Principles. Amend
29 RSA 374:59 to read as follows:

30 374:59 Telephone Number Conservation and Area Code Implementation Policy Principles.

31 I. In this section:

32 (a) [~~"Commission"~~] "**Department**" means the [~~public utilities commission~~] **department**
33 **of energy**.

34 (b) "Geographic split" means the division of an area code into typically 2 areas each
35 served by its own area code.

36 (c) "Overlay" means the addition of a new area code serving the same geographic area as
37 the existing area code.

1 II. The [~~commission~~] **department** should promote and adopt telephone number conservation
2 measures to the maximum extent allowed by federal law for area code 603 and any subsequently
3 assigned New Hampshire area codes.

4 III. The [~~commission~~] **department** should adopt measures, to the maximum extent
5 allowable by federal law and availability of technology, to provide that all customers of all suppliers
6 have equitable access to all currently available unassigned telephone numbers and equitable access
7 to numbers that have not been assigned to a customer which are available for porting to a second
8 supplier. Blocks of telephone numbers that are currently assigned but may be retrievable if
9 thousands number block pooling becomes available should be assigned on an equitable basis to all
10 suppliers.

11 IV. The [~~commission~~] **department** should adopt measures, to the maximum extent
12 allowable by federal law and availability of technology, to provide for local number portability by all
13 suppliers of local exchange service.

14 V. To the extent that any one competitor is responsible for managing a pool of numbers
15 which is to be assigned to customers of that competitor and other competitors, the [~~commission~~]
16 **department** should adopt policies to require that the assignment and management of the numbers
17 be kept segregated from the marketing portion of that competitor.

18 VI. When determining whether to implement a new area code via geographic split or overlay
19 the [~~commission~~] **department** should consider, but not be limited to, the following criteria when
20 determining the public interest:

- 21 (a) Which method best minimizes customer disruption from having to change numbers;
22 (b) Which method is the least costly for business and residents;
23 (c) Which method best minimizes customer confusion;
24 (d) Which method is the least costly for providers to implement;
25 (e) Which method most effectively conserves the total pool of telephone numbers once a
26 new area code is created;
27 (f) Which method minimizes geographic controversy;
28 (g) Which method is most equitable to every resident and business in New Hampshire;
29 (h) Which method minimizes repeating the disruption of area code changes in the future;
30 (i) Which method best ensures public safety;
31 (j) Which method is more competitively neutral; and
32 (k) Which method utilizes best available technology and comprehensive
33 telecommunications planning.

34 270 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project Loan Programs. Amend RSA 374:61 to
35 read as follows:

36 374:61 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project Loan Programs. A public utility may
37 seek [~~commission~~] authorization *from the department of energy*, either individually or in

1 combination with other public utilities, to establish loan, financing, or cost amortization programs
 2 for owners and tenants of residential, public, nonprofit, and business property to finance or
 3 otherwise amortize cost effective fuel neutral renewable energy and energy efficiency investments
 4 and improvements to the owner's or tenant's premises. The total amount loaned in such programs
 5 shall not exceed \$5,000,000. The ~~commission~~ **department** shall authorize terms, conditions, and
 6 tariffs for the repayment of such loans and financed or underwritten investments and improvements
 7 through charges billed through and that run with the meter or meters assigned to the location where
 8 the investments are located, provided that such investments or improvements to a tenant's premises
 9 are only made with the written consent of the owner or the owner's authorized management
 10 representative. Pursuant to RSA 477:4-h, the owner, seller, lessor, or transferor of any real property
 11 subject to unamortized or ongoing charges under such a tariff shall disclose such fact to a prospective
 12 buyer, lessee, or occupant who might be responsible for paying such charges as a condition of utility
 13 service. A public utility may not finance these loan, financing, or cost amortization programs
 14 through its rate base, nor earn its regulated rate of return on such program investments and
 15 improvements to the owner's or tenant's premises, unless such investment is approved as part of a
 16 strategy for minimizing transmission and distributions costs pursuant to RSA 374-G.

17 271 Electric Utility Restructuring; Purpose. Amend RSA 374-F:1, III to read as follows:

18 III. The following interdependent policy principles are intended to guide the New
 19 Hampshire public utilities commission **and the department of energy** in implementing a statewide
 20 electric utility industry restructuring plan, in establishing interim stranded cost recovery charges, in
 21 approving each utility's compliance filing, in streamlining administrative processes to make
 22 regulation more efficient, and in regulating a restructured electric utility industry. In addition,
 23 these interdependent principles are intended to guide the New Hampshire general court and the
 24 department of environmental services and other state agencies in promoting and regulating a
 25 restructured electric utility industry.

26 272 New Paragraph; Definitions. Amend RSA 374-F:2 by inserting after paragraph I-a the
 27 following new paragraph:

28 I-b. "Department" means the department of energy.

29 273 Restructuring Policy Principles; Implementation. Amend RSA 374-F:3 and 374-F:4 to read
 30 as follows:

31 374-F:3 Restructuring Policy Principles.

32 I. System Reliability. Reliable electricity service must be maintained while ensuring public
 33 health, safety, and quality of life.

34 II. Customer Choice. Allowing customers to choose among electricity suppliers will help
 35 ensure fully competitive and innovative markets. Customers should be able to choose among options
 36 such as levels of service reliability, real time pricing, and generation sources, including
 37 interconnected self generation. Customers should expect to be responsible for the consequences of

1 their choices. The [~~commission~~] *department* should ensure that customer confusion will be
 2 minimized and customers will be well informed about changes resulting from restructuring and
 3 increased customer choice.

4 III. Regulation and Unbundling of Services and Rates. When customer choice is introduced,
 5 services and rates should be unbundled to provide customers clear price information on the cost
 6 components of generation, transmission, distribution, and any other ancillary charges. Generation
 7 services should be subject to market competition and minimal economic regulation and at least
 8 functionally separated from transmission and distribution services which should remain regulated
 9 for the foreseeable future. However, distribution service companies should not be absolutely
 10 precluded from owning small scale distributed generation resources as part of a strategy for
 11 minimizing transmission and distribution costs. Performance based or incentive regulation should
 12 be considered for transmission and distribution services. Upward revaluation of transmission and
 13 distribution assets is not a preferred mechanism as part of restructuring. Retail electricity suppliers
 14 who do not own transmission and distribution facilities, should, at a minimum, be registered with
 15 the [~~commission~~] *department*.

16 IV. Open Access to Transmission and Distribution Facilities. Non-discriminatory open
 17 access to the electric system for wholesale and retail transactions should be promoted.
 18 Comparability should be assured for generators competing with affiliates of groups supplying
 19 transmission and distribution services. Companies providing transmission services should file at the
 20 FERC or with the commission, *or with the department of energy*, as appropriate, comparable
 21 service tariffs that provide open access for all competitors. The commission *and the department*
 22 should monitor companies providing transmission or distribution services and take necessary
 23 measures to ensure that no supplier has an unfair advantage in offering and pricing such services.

24 V. Universal Service.

25 (a) Electric service is essential and should be available to all customers. A utility
 26 providing distribution services must have an obligation to connect all customers in its service
 27 territory to the distribution system. A restructured electric utility industry should provide adequate
 28 safeguards to assure universal service. Minimum residential customer service safeguards and
 29 protections should be maintained. Programs and mechanisms that enable residential customers
 30 with low incomes to manage and afford essential electricity requirements should be included as a
 31 part of industry restructuring.

32 (b) As competitive markets emerge, customers should have the option of stable and
 33 predictable ceiling electricity prices through a reasonable transition period, consistent with the near
 34 term rate relief principle of RSA 374-F:3, XI. Upon the implementation of retail choice, transition
 35 service should be available for at least one but not more than 5 years after competition has been
 36 certified to exist in at least 70 percent of the state pursuant to RSA 38:36, for customers who have
 37 not yet chosen a competitive electricity supplier. Transition service should be procured through

1 competitive means and may be administered by independent third parties. The price of transition
2 service should increase over time to encourage customers to choose a competitive electricity supplier
3 during the transition period. Such transition service should be separate and distinct from default
4 service.

5 (c) Default service should be designed to provide a safety net and to assure universal
6 access and system integrity. Default service should be procured through the competitive market and
7 may be administered by independent third parties. Any prudently incurred costs arising from
8 compliance with the renewable portfolio standards of RSA 362-F for default service or purchased
9 power agreements shall be recovered through the default service charge. The allocation of the costs
10 of administering default service should be borne by the customers of default service in a manner
11 approved by the commission. If the commission determines it to be in the public interest, the
12 commission may implement measures to discourage misuse, or long-term use, of default service.
13 Revenues, if any, generated from such measures should be used to defray stranded costs.

14 (d) The commission should establish transition and default service appropriate to the
15 particular circumstances of each jurisdictional utility.

16 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of subparagraphs (b) and (c), as competitive markets
17 develop, the commission may approve alternative means of providing transition or default services
18 which are designed to minimize customer risk, not unduly harm the development of competitive
19 markets, and mitigate against price volatility without creating new deferred costs, if the commission
20 determines such means to be in the public interest.

21 (f)(1) For purposes of subparagraph (f), "renewable energy source" (RES) means a source
22 of electricity, as defined in RSA 362-F:2, XV, that would qualify to receive renewable energy
23 certificates under RSA 362-F, whether or not it has been designated as eligible under RSA 362-F:6,
24 III.

25 (2) A utility shall provide to its customers one or more RES options, as approved by
26 the commission, which may include RES default service provided by the utility or the provision of
27 retail access to competitive sellers of RES attributes. Costs associated with selecting an RES option
28 should be paid for by those customers choosing to take such option. A utility may recover all
29 prudently incurred administrative costs of RES options from all customers, as approved by the
30 commission.

31 (3) RES default service should have either all or a portion of its service attributable
32 to a renewable energy source component procured by the utility, with any remainder filled by
33 standard default service. The price of any RES default service shall be approved by the commission.

34 (4) Under any option offered, the customer shall be purchasing electricity generated
35 by renewable energy sources or the attributes of such generation, either in connection with or
36 separately from the electricity produced. The regional generation information system of energy

1 certificates administered by the ISO-New England and the New England Power Pool (NEPOOL)
2 should be considered at least one form of certification that is acceptable under this program.

3 (5) A utility that is required by statute to provide default service from its generation
4 assets should use any of its owned generation assets that are powered by renewable energy for the
5 provision of standard default service, rather than for the provision of a renewable energy source
6 component.

7 (6) Utilities should include educational materials in their normal communications to
8 their customers that explain the RES options being offered and the health and environmental
9 benefits associated with them. Such educational materials should be compatible with any
10 environmental disclosure requirements established by the ~~[commission]~~ **department**.

11 (7) For purposes of consumer protection and the maintenance of program integrity,
12 reasonable efforts should be made to assure that the renewable energy source component of an RES
13 option is not separately advertised, claimed, or sold as part of any other electricity service or
14 transaction, including compliance with the renewable portfolio standards under RSA 362-F.

15 (8) If RES default service is not available for purchase at a reasonable cost on behalf
16 of consumers choosing an RES default service option, a utility may, as approved by the commission,
17 make payments to the renewable energy fund created pursuant to RSA 362-F:10 on behalf of
18 customers to comply with subparagraph (f).

19 (9) The commission shall implement subparagraph (f) through utility-specific filings.
20 Approved RES options shall be included in individual tariff filings by utilities.

21 (10) A utility, with commission approval, may require that a minimum number of
22 customers, or a minimum amount of load, choose to participate in the program in order to offer an
23 RES option.

24 VI. Benefits for All Consumers. Restructuring of the electric utility industry should be
25 implemented in a manner that benefits all consumers equitably and does not benefit one customer
26 class to the detriment of another. Costs should not be shifted unfairly among customers. A
27 nonbypassable and competitively neutral system benefits charge applied to the use of the
28 distribution system may be used to fund public benefits related to the provision of electricity. Such
29 benefits, as approved by regulators, may include, but not necessarily be limited to, programs for low-
30 income customers, energy efficiency programs, funding for the electric utility industry's share of
31 commission **and department** expenses pursuant to RSA 363-A, support for research and
32 development, and investments in commercialization strategies for new and beneficial technologies.
33 Legislative approval of the New Hampshire general court shall be required to increase the system
34 benefits charge. ~~[This requirement of prior approval of the New Hampshire general court shall not~~
35 ~~apply to the energy efficiency portion of the system benefits charge if the increase is authorized by~~
36 ~~an order of the commission to implement the 3-year planning periods of the Energy Efficiency~~
37 ~~Resource Standard framework established by commission Order No. 25,932 dated August 2, 2016,~~

1 ending in 2020 and 2023, or, if for purposes other than implementing the Energy Efficiency Resource
2 Standard, is authorized by the fiscal committee of the general court, provided, however, that] No less
3 than 20 percent of the portion of the funds collected for energy efficiency shall be expended on low-
4 income energy efficiency programs. Energy efficiency programs should include the development of
5 relationships with third-party lending institutions to provide opportunities for low-cost financing of
6 energy efficiency measures to leverage available funds to the maximum extent, and shall also
7 include funding for workforce development to minimize waiting periods for low-income energy audits
8 and weatherization.

9 VII. Full and Fair Competition. Choice for retail customers cannot exist without a range of
10 viable suppliers. The rules that govern market activity should apply to all buyers and sellers in a
11 fair and consistent manner in order to ensure a fully competitive market.

12 VIII. Environmental Improvement. Continued environmental protection and long term
13 environmental sustainability should be encouraged. Increased competition in the electric industry
14 should be implemented in a manner that supports and furthers the goals of environmental
15 improvement. Over time, there should be more equitable treatment of old and new generation
16 sources with regard to air pollution controls and costs. New Hampshire should encourage equitable
17 and appropriate environmental regulation, based on comparable criteria, for all electricity
18 generators, in and out of state, to reduce air pollution transported across state lines and to promote
19 full, free, and fair competition. As generation becomes deregulated, innovative market-driven
20 approaches are preferred to regulatory controls to reduce adverse environmental impacts. Such
21 market approaches may include valuing the costs of pollution and using pollution offset credits.

22 IX. Renewable Energy Resources. Increased future commitments to renewable energy
23 resources should be consistent with the New Hampshire energy policy as set forth in RSA 378:37
24 and should be balanced against the impact on generation prices. Over the long term, increased use
25 of cost-effective renewable energy technologies can have significant environmental, economic, and
26 security benefits. To encourage emerging technologies, restructuring should allow customers the
27 possibility of choosing to pay a premium for electricity from renewable resources and reasonable
28 opportunities to directly invest in and interconnect decentralized renewable electricity generating
29 resources.

30 X. Energy Efficiency. Restructuring should be designed to reduce market barriers to
31 investments in energy efficiency and provide incentives for appropriate demand-side management
32 and not reduce cost-effective customer conservation. Utility sponsored energy efficiency programs
33 should target cost-effective opportunities that may otherwise be lost due to market barriers.

34 XI. Near Term Rate Relief. The goal of restructuring is to create competitive markets that
35 are expected to produce lower prices for all customers than would have been paid under the current
36 regulatory system. Given New Hampshire's higher than average regional prices for electricity,
37 utilities, in the near term, should work to reduce rates for all customers. To the greatest extent

1 practicable, rates should approach competitive regional electric rates. The state should recognize
2 when state policies impose costs that conflict with this principle and should take efforts to mitigate
3 those costs. The unique New Hampshire issues contributing to the highest prices in New England
4 should be addressed during the transition, wherever possible.

5 XII. Recovery of Stranded Costs.

6 (a) It is the intent of the legislature to provide appropriate tools and reasonable
7 guidance to the commission in order to assist it in addressing claims for stranded cost recovery and
8 fulfilling its responsibility to determine rates which are equitable, appropriate, and balanced and in
9 the public interest. In making its determinations, the commission shall balance the interests of
10 ratepayers and utilities during and after the restructuring process. Nothing in this section is
11 intended to provide any greater opportunity for stranded cost recovery than is available under
12 applicable regulation or law on the effective date of this chapter.

13 (b) Utilities should be allowed to recover the net nonmitigatable stranded costs
14 associated with required environmental mandates currently approved for cost recovery, and power
15 acquisitions mandated by federal statutes or RSA 362-A.

16 (c) Utilities have had and continue to have an obligation to take all reasonable measures
17 to mitigate stranded costs. Mitigation measures may include, but shall not be limited to:

18 (1) Reduction of expenses.

19 (2) Renegotiation of existing contracts.

20 (3) Refinancing of existing debt.

21 (4) A reasonable amount of retirement, sale, or write-off of uneconomic or surplus
22 assets, including regulatory assets not directly related to the provision of electricity service.

23 (d) Stranded costs should be determined on a net basis, should be verifiable, should not
24 include transmission and distribution assets, and should be reconciled to actual electricity market
25 conditions from time to time. Any recovery of stranded costs should be through a nonbypassable,
26 nondiscriminatory, appropriately structured charge that is fair to all customer classes, lawful,
27 constitutional, limited in duration, consistent with the promotion of fully competitive markets and
28 consistent with these principles. Entry and exit fees are not preferred recovery mechanisms.
29 Charges to recover stranded costs should only apply to customers within a utility's retail service
30 territory, except for such costs that have resulted from the provision of wholesale power to another
31 utility. The charges should not apply to wheeling-through transactions.

32 XIII. Regionalism. New England Power Pool (NEPOOL) should be reformed and efforts to
33 enhance competition and to complement industry restructuring on a regional basis should be
34 encouraged. New Hampshire should work with other New England and northeastern states to
35 accomplish the goals of restructuring. Working with other regional states, New Hampshire should
36 assert maximum state authority over the entire electric industry restructuring process. While it is
37 desirable to design and implement a restructured industry in concert with the other New England

1 and northeastern states, New Hampshire should not unnecessarily delay its timetable. Any pool
 2 structure adopted for the restructured industry should not preclude bilateral contracts with pool and
 3 non-pool services and should not preclude ancillary pool services from being obtained from non-pool
 4 sources.

5 XIV. Administrative Processes. The commission *and the department* should adapt [~~its~~]
 6 *their* administrative processes to make regulation more efficient and to enable competitors to adapt
 7 to changes in the market in a timely manner. The market framework for competitive electric service
 8 should, to the extent possible, reduce reliance on administrative process. New Hampshire should
 9 move deliberately to replace traditional planning mechanisms with market driven choice as the
 10 means of supplying resource needs.

11 XV. Timetable. The commission should seek to implement full customer choice among
 12 electricity suppliers in the most expeditious manner possible, but may delay such implementation in
 13 the service territory of any electric utility when implementation would be inconsistent with the goal
 14 of near-term rate relief, or would otherwise not be in the public interest.

15 374-F:4 Implementation.

16 I. The commission is authorized to require the implementation of retail choice of electric
 17 suppliers for all customer classes of utilities providing retail electric service under its jurisdiction.
 18 The commission shall require such implementation at the earliest date determined to be in the
 19 public interest by the commission. However, in no event may the implementation be delayed beyond
 20 July 1, 1998 without legislative approval or a finding of public interest by the commission that delay
 21 is required due to events beyond the control of the commission or that implementation of retail
 22 choice within the service territory of any electric utility would be inconsistent with the goal of near-
 23 term rate relief or would otherwise not be in the public interest. In the event that implementation of
 24 retail choice is delayed in the service territory of an electric utility, the electric utility shall continue
 25 to provide reliable retail service at the lowest reasonable cost in accordance with state law. In
 26 addition, at the earliest practical date, the commission should make effective the unbundling of
 27 components of rates into at least distribution, transmission, and generation for each jurisdictional
 28 utility.

29 II. Upon the effective date of this chapter, the commission shall undertake a generic
 30 proceeding to develop a statewide industry restructuring plan in accordance with the above
 31 principles, and shall, after public hearings, issue a final order no later than February 28, 1997. In
 32 its order, the commission shall establish the interim stranded cost recovery charge for each electric
 33 utility as provided in paragraph VI.

34 III. The commission shall require all electric utilities subject to its jurisdiction to submit
 35 compliance filings *to the department of energy*, which shall include open access tariffs and such
 36 other information as the commission may require, no later than June 30, 1997. The [~~commission~~]
 37 *department* shall investigate and *the commission* shall approve utility compliance filings, subject

1 to modification by the commission if necessary, after public hearing and subject to a finding that the
2 filings are in the public interest and substantially consistent with the principles established in this
3 chapter.

4 IV. A utility having less than a 50 percent share of statewide retail electric distribution
5 sales (measured in kilowatt hours per year) may seek a ruling by the commission that it is in the
6 public interest that implementation of such utility's compliance filing be deferred until compliance
7 filings representing 70 percent of retail electric sales have been or are being implemented.

8 V. The commission is authorized to allow utilities to collect a stranded cost recovery charge,
9 subject to its determination in the context of a rate case or adjudicated settlement proceeding that
10 such charge is equitable, appropriate, and balanced, is in the public interest, and is substantially
11 consistent with these interdependent principles. The burden of proof for any stranded cost recovery
12 claim shall be borne by the utility making such claim.

13 VI.(a) In order to facilitate the rapid transition to full competition, the commission is
14 authorized, in its generic restructuring order as provided in paragraph II, to set, without a formal
15 rate case proceeding, an interim stranded cost recovery charge for each electric utility. Such interim
16 stranded cost recovery charges shall be effective for not more than 2 years from the implementation
17 of utility compliance filings and shall be based on the commission's preliminary determination of an
18 equitable, appropriate, and balanced measure of stranded cost recovery that takes into account the
19 near term rate relief principle, is in the public interest, and is substantially consistent with these
20 interdependent principles. The commission shall also consider the potential for future rate impacts
21 due to possible differences between interim stranded cost recovery charges and charges that may
22 finally be approved for stranded cost recovery.

23 (b) Any utility may seek adjustment of the interim stranded cost recovery charge at any
24 time based on severe financial hardship, as determined by the commission. The setting of an interim
25 stranded cost recovery charge shall establish no legal, factual, or policy precedent with respect to the
26 final determination of stranded cost recovery by the commission in any subsequent administrative or
27 judicial proceeding.

28 VII. The interim stranded cost recovery charge established for a utility as provided in
29 paragraph VI may also be adjusted based upon the outcome of rate case proceedings to adjudicate
30 claims for stranded cost recovery pursuant to paragraph V of this section. Any amounts approved by
31 the commission for stranded cost recovery shall be net of amounts previously collected through
32 interim stranded cost recovery charges.

33 VIII.(a) The commission is authorized to order such charges and other service provisions and
34 to take such other actions that are necessary to implement restructuring and that are substantially
35 consistent with the principles established in this chapter. The commission is authorized to require
36 that distribution and electricity supply services be provided by separate affiliates.

37 (b) [Repealed.]

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1 (c) The portion of the system benefits charge due to programs for low-income customers
2 shall not exceed 1.5 mills per kilowatt hour. If the commission determines that the low-income
3 program fund has accumulated an excess of \$1,000,000 and that the excess is not likely to be
4 substantially reduced over the next 12 months, it shall suspend collection of some or all of this
5 portion of the system benefits charge for a period of time it deems reasonable.

6 (d) [Repealed.]

7 (e) Targeted conservation, energy efficiency, and load management programs and
8 incentives that are part of a strategy to minimize distribution costs may be included in the
9 distribution charge or the system benefits charge, provided that system benefits charge funds are
10 only used for customer-based energy efficiency measures, and such funding shall not exceed 10
11 percent of the energy efficiency portion of a utility's annual system benefits charge funds. A proposal
12 for such use of system benefits charge funds shall be presented to the commission for approval. Any
13 such approval shall initially be on a pilot program basis and the results of each pilot program
14 proposal shall be subject to evaluation by the commission.

15 (f) Beginning in 2000, the commission *and the department* shall submit a report to the
16 legislative oversight committee to monitor the transformation of delivery of electric services by
17 October 1 of each year. The report shall concern the results and effectiveness of the system benefits
18 charge.

19 (g) [Repealed.]

20 VIII-a. Any electric utility that collects funds for energy efficiency programs that are subject
21 to the commission's approval, shall include in its plans to be submitted to the commission program
22 design, and/or enhancements, and estimated participation that maximize energy efficiency benefits
23 to public schools, including measures that help enhance the energy efficiency of public school
24 construction or renovation projects that are designed to improve indoor air quality. The report
25 required under RSA 374-F:4, VIII(f) shall include the results and effectiveness of the energy
26 efficiency programs for schools and, in addition to other requirements, be submitted to the
27 commissioner of the department of education.

28 IX. An electricity supplier shall be eligible to compete, subject to necessary limitations
29 established by the commission, for open access customers only if affiliated utilities file comparable
30 open access transmission and distribution rates with the FERC or the commission, or both as
31 appropriate, for all of their transmission facilities in New Hampshire and to the extent practicable,
32 all of their distribution facilities in New Hampshire.

33 X. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the commission from otherwise
34 exercising its lawful authority under title 34, in proceedings which relate to the introduction of
35 competition in the retail electric utility industry including the retention of experts and consultants to
36 assist the commission in its investigations and the assessment of such costs against utilities and any
37 other parties to the proceedings, consistent with RSA 365:37 and RSA 365:38.

1 XI. Any administrative or adjudicative proceeding or public hearing relating to this chapter
2 shall be subject to the provisions of RSA 541-A.

3 XII. To the extent that the provisions of this chapter are applicable to rural electric
4 cooperatives for which a certificate of deregulation is on file with the commission, the commission
5 shall exercise its authority with regard to such deregulated rural electric cooperatives only when and
6 to the extent that the commission finds, after notice and hearing, that such action is required to
7 ensure that such deregulated rural electric cooperatives do not act in a manner which is inconsistent
8 with the restructuring policy principles of RSA 374-F:3. The commission shall have the authority to
9 require that such deregulated rural electric cooperatives participate in proceedings, answer
10 commission **and department** for information and file such reports as may be reasonably necessary
11 to permit the commission to make an informed finding concerning the relevant restructuring policy
12 principle actions of such deregulated rural electric cooperatives. Absent such a finding by the
13 commission, the active role of assuring that the restructuring policy principles are appropriately
14 addressed within their service territories shall be reserved to the deregulated rural electric
15 cooperatives. Notwithstanding the foregoing, deregulated rural electric cooperatives shall be subject
16 to the commission's jurisdiction with regard to those provisions of RSA 374-F pertaining to stranded
17 cost recovery, customer choice, open access tariffs, default service, energy efficiency, and low income
18 programs to the same extent as other public utilities.

19 274 Oversight Committee; Report. Amend RSA 374-F:5, III to read as follows:

20 III. The committee shall provide an interim report on or before April 1, and an annual report
21 on or before November 1 to the governor, the speaker of the house, the senate president, the state
22 library, ~~and~~ the public utilities commission, **and the department of energy** on activities before
23 the public utilities commission and other cognizant state agencies in regard to evolving changes in
24 the provision of electric services to New Hampshire customers, including modernization of the
25 electric grid, development of technologies for electric storage, electrification of transportation, the
26 growth of distributed generation, the commission's role in a deregulated market, and such matters
27 as may arise that may present opportunities to improve the delivery of electric services or to reduce
28 cost.

29 275 Competitive Electricity Supplier Requirements; Participation in Regional Activities. Amend
30 RSA 374-F:7 and 374-F:8 to read as follows:

31 374-F:7 Competitive Electricity Supplier Requirements.

32 I. Competitive energy suppliers are not public utilities pursuant to RSA 362:2, though a
33 competitive energy supplier may seek public utility status from the ~~commission~~ **department** if it
34 so chooses. Notwithstanding a competitive energy supplier's non-utility status, the ~~commission~~
35 **department** is authorized to establish requirements, excluding price regulation, for competitive
36 electricity suppliers, including registration, registration fees, customer information, disclosure,
37 standards of conduct, and consumer protection and assistance requirements. Unless electing to do

1 so, an electricity supplier that offers or sells at retail to consumers within this state products and
 2 services that can lawfully be made available to such consumers by more than one supplier shall not,
 3 because of such offers or sales, be deemed to be a public utility as defined by RSA 362:2. These
 4 requirements shall be applied in a manner consistent with the restructuring principles of this
 5 chapter to promote competition among electricity suppliers.

6 II. Aggregators of electricity load that do not take ownership of power or other services and
 7 do not represent any supplier interest are not public utilities pursuant to RSA 362:2, but shall notify
 8 the ~~[commission]~~ **department** of their intent to do business. Municipalities that aggregate electric
 9 power or energy services for their citizens pursuant to RSA 53-E are not public utilities pursuant to
 10 RSA 362:2 and are not subject to the provisions of paragraph III and RSA 374-F:4-b.

11 III. The **department may investigate and petition the** commission ~~[may]~~ **to** assess fines
 12 against, revoke the registration of, order the rescission of contracts with residential customers of,
 13 order restitution to the residential customers of, and prohibit from doing business in the state any
 14 competitive electricity supplier, including any aggregator or broker, which is found to have:

15 (a) Engaged in any unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the marketing, sale, or
 16 solicitation of electricity supply or related services;

17 (b) Violated the requirements of this section or any other provision of this title
 18 applicable to competitive electricity suppliers; or

19 (c) Violated any rule adopted by the ~~[commission]~~ **department** pursuant to paragraph V
 20 and RSA 374-F:4-b.

21 IV. As a condition of operation, for a 2-year interim period from the date that competition is
 22 implemented in one or more areas of the state, competitive energy suppliers and load aggregators
 23 shall submit to the jurisdiction of the commission for mediation and resolution of disputes between
 24 customers and competitive energy suppliers or aggregators. Municipalities that aggregate electric
 25 power or energy service for their citizens pursuant to RSA 53-E are not subject to this paragraph.

26 V. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall adopt rules, under RSA 541-A, to implement this
 27 section. Where the ~~[commission]~~ **department** has adopted rules in conformity with this section,
 28 complaints to and proceedings before the commission shall not be subject to RSA 541-A:29 or RSA
 29 541-A:29-a.

30 374-F:8 Participation in Regional Activities. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall advocate for
 31 New Hampshire interests before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other regional and
 32 federal bodies. The commission shall participate in the activities of the New England Conference of
 33 Public Utility Commissioners, **and** the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners,
 34 and the **department shall participate in the activities of the** New England States Committee on
 35 Electricity, or other similar organizations, and work with the New England Independent System
 36 Operator and NEPOOL to advance the interests of New Hampshire with respect to wholesale
 37 electric issues, including policy goals relating to fuel diversity, renewable energy, and energy

1 efficiency, and to assure nondiscriminatory open access to a safe, adequate, and reliable
2 transmission system at just and reasonable prices. The [~~commission~~] **department** shall advocate
3 against proposed regional or federal rules or policies that are inconsistent with the policies, rules, or
4 laws of New Hampshire. In its participation in regional activities, the commission **and the**
5 **department** shall consider how other states' policies will impact New Hampshire rates and work to
6 prevent or minimize any rate impact the commission **or department** determines to be unjust or
7 unreasonable.

8 276 Offshore Wind and Port Development; Commission Established; Membership. Amend RSA
9 374-F:10, II(c) to read as follows:

10 (c) The [~~director of the office of strategic initiatives~~] **commissioner of the department**
11 **of energy**, or designee.

12 277 Reference Changed; Office of Offshore Wind Industry Development. Amend RSA 374-F:10,
13 VI to read as follows:

14 VI. The commission shall receive staff support and other services, including research and
15 facilities assessments, from the department of business and economic affairs, office of offshore wind
16 industry development established in RSA [~~12-O:51~~] **12-P:7-b**.

17 278 Definitions Amend RSA 374-H:1, I to read as follows:

18 I. [~~"Commission"~~] **"Department"** means the [~~public utilities commission~~] **department of**
19 **energy**.

20 279 Investigation of Energy Storage. Amend RSA 374-H:2 to read as follows:

21 374-H:2 [~~Commission~~] **Department** Investigation of Energy Storage.

22 I. Within 30 days of the effective date of this chapter, the [~~commission~~] **department** shall
23 [~~initiate a proceeding to investigate~~] **conduct an investigation into** ways to enable energy storage
24 projects to receive compensation for avoided transmission and distribution costs, including but not
25 limited to avoided regional and local network service charges, while also participating in wholesale
26 energy markets. The [~~commission~~] **department** shall investigate how this might be done for both
27 utility-owned and non-utility-owned energy storage projects, as well as for both behind-the-meter
28 storage and front-of-the-meter storage.

29 II. The [~~commission's investigative proceeding~~] **department's investigation** shall
30 specifically consider the following:

31 (a) How public policy can best help establish accurate and efficient price signals for
32 energy storage projects that value their ability to avoid transmission and distribution costs while
33 simultaneously reducing wholesale electricity market prices.

34 (b) How to compensate energy storage projects that participate in wholesale electricity
35 markets for avoided transmission and distribution costs in a manner that provides net savings to
36 consumers.

1 (c) How best to encourage both utility and non-utility investments in energy storage
2 projects.

3 (d) The costs and benefits of a potential bring your own device program; how such a
4 program might be implemented; any statutory or regulatory changes that might be needed to create,
5 facilitate, and implement such a program; and whether such a program should include all
6 distributed energy resources or be limited to distributed energy storage projects.

7 (e) Any statutory changes the general court should implement, including but not limited
8 to changes to or exceptions from RSA 374-F or RSA 374-G, to enable energy storage projects to
9 receive appropriate compensation for avoided transmission and distribution costs while also
10 participating in wholesale energy markets.

11 (f) Any other topic the [~~commission~~] **department** reasonably believes it should consider
12 in order to diligently conduct the proceeding.

13 III. The [~~commission~~] **department** shall report its findings and recommendations to the
14 standing committees of the house of representatives and senate with jurisdiction over energy and
15 utility matters no later than 2 years after initiating the proceeding. The report shall identify ways
16 any recommended statutory changes can minimize any potential conflict with the restructuring
17 policy principles of RSA 374-F.

18 280 Fixing of Rates by Commission; Energy Policy Act Standards. Amend RSA 378:7 and 378:7-
19 a to read as follows:

20 378:7 Fixing of Rates by Commission. Whenever the commission shall be of opinion, after a
21 hearing had upon its own motion *or on motion of the department of energy* or upon complaint,
22 that the rates, fares or charges demanded or collected, or proposed to be demanded or collected, by
23 any public utility for service rendered or to be rendered are unjust or unreasonable, or that the
24 regulations or practices of such public utility affecting such rates are unjust or unreasonable, or in
25 any wise in violation of any provision of law, or that the maximum rates, fares or charges chargeable
26 by any such public utility are insufficient, the commission shall determine the just and reasonable or
27 lawful rates, fares and charges to be thereafter observed and in force as the maximum to be charged
28 for the service to be performed, and shall fix the same by order to be served upon all public utilities
29 by which such rates, fares and charges are thereafter to be observed. The commission shall be under
30 no obligation to investigate *or hear* any rate matter which it has investigated within a period of 2
31 years, but may do so within said period at its discretion.

32 378:7-a Energy Policy Act Standards. The [~~commission~~] **department** may establish
33 requirements for net metering, fuel diversity, fossil fuel generation efficiency, advanced metering,
34 time-based rates, and interconnection with on-site generation facilities of customers in a manner not
35 inconsistent with section 111 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. Chapter
36 46) as amended by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

37 281 Contracts for Advertising. Amend RSA 378:24 to read as follows:

1 378:24 Contracts for Advertising. All advertising contracts of public utilities shall be made at
2 regular, established, commercial advertising rates; and such contracts shall be open to inspection by
3 the commission **and the department of energy** at all times.

4 282 Filing; Inspection; Temporary Rates. Amend RSA 378:26 and 378:27 to read as follows:

5 378:26 Filing; Inspection. A copy of such list for the preceding year shall be filed with the
6 commission **and the department of energy**, in such form and under such regulations as [~~the~~
7 ~~commission~~] **they** may prescribe. Such list, together with the books, records and papers of the
8 carrier so far as relevant, shall be open at all times to the inspection of the commission, who shall
9 examine the same whenever they deem it necessary to the due enforcement of this title.

10 378:27 Temporary Rates. In any proceeding involving the rates of a public utility brought either
11 upon motion of the commission **or the department of energy** or upon complaint, the commission
12 may, after reasonable notice and hearing, if it be of the opinion that the public interest so requires,
13 immediately fix, determine, and prescribe for the duration of said proceeding reasonable temporary
14 rates; provided, however, that such temporary rates shall be sufficient to yield not less than a
15 reasonable return on the cost of the property of the utility used and useful in the public service less
16 accrued depreciation, as shown by the reports of the utility filed with the commission, unless there
17 appears to be reasonable ground for questioning the figures in such reports.

18 283 Multi-use Data Energy Platform. Amend RSA 378:50-378:52 to read as follows:

19 378:50 Definitions. In this subdivision:

20 I. "Data sharing" means providing data and accessing data provided by others.

21 II. "Individual customer data" means the customer's name, address, opt-in status pursuant
22 to RSA 374:62, energy usage as recorded by meters supplied by electric and natural gas utilities, and
23 other data segments established and authorized by the [~~commission~~] **department of energy**.

24 III. "Third party" means:

25 (a) Any service provider within the meaning of RSA 363:37, II other than a utility; and

26 (b) The office of the consumer advocate established pursuant to RSA 363:28.

27 378:51 Online Energy Data Platform Established.

28 I. The [~~commission~~] **department of energy** shall require electric and natural gas utilities to
29 establish and jointly operate a statewide, multi-use, online energy data platform. The data platform
30 shall:

31 (a) Consist of a common base of energy data for use in wide range of applications and
32 business uses.

33 (b) Adhere to specific and well-documented standards.

34 (c) Provide a user-friendly interface.

35 (d) Adhere to a common statewide logical data model that defines the relationships
36 among the various categories of data included in the platform.

1 (e) Allow for sharing of individual customer data consistent with the opt-in requirements
2 for third-party access specified in RSA 363:38.

3 (f) Protect from unauthorized disclosure the personally identifying information of utility
4 customers in a manner that advances applicable constitutional and statutory privacy rights,
5 including the protections of RSA 363:38.

6 (g) Provide for the voluntary participation of municipal utilities and deregulated rural
7 electric cooperatives in data sharing and the operation of the online energy data platform, subject to
8 terms, conditions, and cost sharing which are reasonable and in the public interest.

9 II. The commission shall open an adjudicative proceeding within 90 days of the effective
10 date of this subdivision, to which all electric and natural gas utilities shall be mandatory parties, to
11 determine:

12 (a) Governance, development, implementation, change management, and versioning of
13 the statewide, multi-use, online energy data platform.

14 (b) Standards for data accuracy, retention, availability, privacy, and security, including
15 the integrity and uniformity of the logical data model.

16 (c) Financial security standards or other mechanisms to assure compliance with privacy
17 standards by third parties.

18 III. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall defer the implementation of the
19 statewide, multi-use, online energy data platform pursuant to paragraph I if it determines that the
20 cost of such platform to be recovered from customers is unreasonable and not in the public interest.

21 IV. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** may adopt **additional** rules pursuant to RSA
22 541-A as necessary to implement this section.

23 378:52 Platform Requirements. The utilities shall:

24 I. Design and operate the energy data platform to provide opportunities for utilities, their
25 customers, and third parties to access the online energy data platform and to participate in data
26 sharing.

27 II. Require, as a condition of accessing the online energy data platform, that a third party
28 complete a qualification and registration process to ensure that any customer data downloaded from
29 the platform remains in a safe, secure environment according to data privacy standards established
30 by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**.

31 III. Administer the online energy data platform in a manner consistent with RSA 363:38.

32 284 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; Energy Efficiency Fund and Use of Auction Proceeds.
33 Amend RSA 125-O:23 to read as follows:

34 125-O:23 Energy Efficiency Fund and Use of Auction Proceeds.

35 I. There is hereby established an energy efficiency fund. This nonlapsing, special fund shall
36 be continually appropriated to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** to be expended in
37 accordance with this section. The state treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited therein, as

1 provided by law. Income received on investments made by the state treasurer shall also be credited
 2 to the fund. All programs supported by these funds shall be subject to audit by the ~~[commission]~~
 3 **department of energy** as deemed necessary. A portion of the fund moneys shall be used to pay for
 4 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** and **department of environmental services** costs to
 5 administer this subdivision, including contributions for the state's share of the costs of the RGGI
 6 regional organization. No fund moneys shall be used by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** or
 7 the **department of environmental services** to contract with outside consultants. The **department**
 8 **of energy** ~~[commission]~~ shall transfer from the fund to the **department of environmental services**
 9 such costs as may be budgeted and expended, or otherwise approved by the fiscal committee of the
 10 general court and the governor and council, for the department's cost of administering this
 11 subdivision.

12 II. All amounts in excess of the threshold price of \$1 for any allowance sale shall be rebated
 13 to all retail electric ratepayers in the state on a per-kilowatt-hour basis, in a timely manner to be
 14 determined by the commission.

15 III. All remaining proceeds received by the state from the sale of allowances, excluding the
 16 amount used for ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** and **department of environmental services**
 17 administration under paragraph I, shall be allocated by the commission as follows:

18 (a) At least 15 percent to the low-income core energy efficiency program.

19 (b) Beginning January 1, 2014, up to \$2,000,000 annually to utility core programs for
 20 municipal and local government energy efficiency projects, including projects by local governments
 21 that have their own municipal utilities. Funding elements shall include, but not be limited to,
 22 funding for direct technical and project management assistance to identify and encourage
 23 comprehensive projects and incentives structured to assist municipal and local governments funding
 24 energy efficiency projects. In calendar years 2014, 2015, and 2016, any unused funds allocated to
 25 municipal and local government projects under this paragraph remaining at the end of the year shall
 26 roll over and be added to the new calendar year program funds and continue to be made available
 27 exclusively for municipal and local government projects. Beginning in calendar year 2017, and all
 28 subsequent years, funds allocated to municipal and local government projects under this paragraph
 29 shall be offered first to municipal and local governments as described in this paragraph for no less
 30 than 4 full calendar months. If, at the end of this time, municipal and local governments have not
 31 submitted requests for eligible projects that will expend the funds allocated to municipal and local
 32 government projects under this paragraph within that program year, the funds shall be offered on a
 33 first-come, first-serve basis to business and municipal customers who fund the system benefits
 34 charge.

35 (c) The remainder to all-fuels, comprehensive energy efficiency programs administered
 36 by qualified parties which may include electric distribution companies as selected through a
 37 competitive bid process. The funding shall be distributed among residential, commercial, and

1 industrial customers based upon each customer class's electricity usage to the greatest extent
2 practicable as determined by the commission. Bids shall be evaluated based on, but not limited to,
3 the following criteria:

- 4 (1) A benefit/cost ratio analysis including all fuels.
- 5 (2) Demonstrated ability to provide a comprehensive, fuel neutral program.
- 6 (3) Demonstrated infrastructure to effectively deliver such program.
- 7 (4) Experience of the bidder in administering energy efficiency programs.
- 8 (5) Ability to reach out to customers.
- 9 (6) The validity of the energy saving assumptions described in the bid.

10 IV. The ~~[electric]~~ division of ***policy and programs*** of the ~~[commission]~~ ***department of***
11 ***energy*** shall conduct a competitive bid process for the selection of programs to be funded under
12 subparagraph III(c), with such funding to begin January 1, 2015. The ~~[commission]~~ ***department of***
13 ***energy*** may petition the governor and council to extend existing contracts until such time as the
14 competitive bids are approved by the governor and council, but in no event later than July 1, 2015.
15 The competitive bid process shall be repeated every 3 years thereafter. Before extending any
16 existing program, public comment on the proposed extension shall be accepted.

17 V. Each entity receiving funding under subparagraph III(c) shall file an annual report on
18 the performance of the entity's program. The ~~[commission]~~ ***department of energy*** shall establish
19 the format, content, and the methodologies used to provide the content of the reports. The
20 ~~[commission]~~ ***department of energy*** shall make use of, as applicable and appropriate, the
21 monitoring and verification requirements used in the natural gas and electric utility core programs.
22 The annual reports shall be delivered to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of the
23 house of representatives, the chairmen of the senate and house standing committees with
24 jurisdiction over energy matters, ***the commissioner of the department of energy*** and the
25 ~~[chairman]~~ ***chairperson*** of the public utilities commission. The reports shall include, but not be
26 limited to, the following:

- 27 (a) Program expenditures, including direct customer installation costs.
- 28 (b) Resulting actual and projected energy savings by fuel type and associated CO2
29 emissions reductions.
- 30 (c) Any measurement and verification data that corroborate projected savings.
- 31 (d) The number of customers served by the programs.
- 32 (e) Other data as required by the commission in order to determine program
33 effectiveness.

34 285 New Paragraph; Bank Commissioner; Public Deposit Investment Pool. Amend RSA 383:22
35 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

36 V. The commissioner shall charge the public deposit investment pool any actual costs
37 incurred by the department for the operation of the pool as well as any expenses of department

1 personnel assisting in the operation of the pool. The cost for personnel assisting in the operation of
2 the pool shall be determined in accordance with the per diem examination charge established in RSA
3 383:11, I, provided that the requirement that no entity shall be charged or pay less than one full day
4 shall not apply. The private investment advisor retained under paragraph II shall be responsible for
5 processing any invoice submitted for the actual costs incurred by the department and the expenses of
6 department personnel under this paragraph.

7 286 Tax Expenditure Report; Weighted Apportionment Factors Removed. Amend RSA 71-C:2 to
8 read as follows:

9 71-C:2 Tax Expenditures Specified. Tax expenditures include, but may not be limited to, the
10 community development finance authority investment tax credit as computed in RSA 162-L:10; the
11 economic revitalization zone tax credit as computed in RSA 162-N:6; the research and development
12 tax credit under RSA 77-A:5, XIII; the Coos county job creation tax credit under RSA 77-E:3-c; the
13 education tax credit as computed in RSA 77-G:4; ~~the weighted apportionment factors under RSA 77-~~
14 ~~A:3, II(a);~~ **the regional career and technical education center tax credit pursuant to RSA**
15 **188-E:9-a;** and the exemption for qualified regenerative manufacturing companies allowed under
16 RSA 77-A:1, I and RSA 77-E:1, III.

17 287 Business Profits Tax; Single Sales Factor; Amendment to Prospective Amendment. 2019,
18 346:426, prospectively amending RSA 77-A:3, I-III, is repealed and reenacted to read as follow:

19 346:426 Business Profits Tax; Apportionment; 2026. RSA 77-A:3, I-III are repealed and
20 reenacted to read as follows:

21 I. A business organization which derives gross business profits from business activity both
22 within and without this state, and which is subject to a net income tax, a franchise tax measured by
23 net income, or a capital stock tax in another state or is subject to the jurisdiction of another state to
24 impose a net income tax or capital stock tax upon it, whether or not such tax is actually imposed,
25 shall apportion its gross business profits so as to allocate to this state a fair and equitable proportion
26 of such business profits. Except as provided in this section, such apportionment shall be made in the
27 following manner:

28 (a) For taxable periods ending before December 31, 2026:

29 (1) The business organization's gross business profits shall be apportioned on the
30 basis of the following 3 factors:

31 (A) The percentage of value of the total real and tangible personal property
32 owned, rented and employed by the business organization everywhere as is owned, rented and
33 employed by it in the operation of its business in this state. Property owned by the business
34 organization shall be valued at its original cost. Property rented by the business organization shall
35 be valued at 8 times the net annual rental rate. Net annual rental rate is the annual rental rate
36 paid by the business organization less any annual rental rate received by the business organization
37 from subrentals.

1 (B) The percentage of total compensation paid by the business organization to
2 employees everywhere as is paid by the business organization to employees for services rendered
3 within this state. Such compensation is deemed to be disbursed for services in this state if the
4 service is performed entirely within this state, or if the service is performed both within and without
5 this state and the service performed without this state is incidental to the service within this state,
6 or some of the service is performed in this state and (i) the base of operations or, if there is no base of
7 operations, the place from which the service is directed or controlled is in this state, or (ii) the base of
8 operations or the place from which the service is directed or controlled is not in any state in which
9 some part of the service is performed, but the individual performing such service resides within this
10 state.

11 (C) The percentage of the total sales, including charges for services, made by the
12 business organization everywhere as is made by it within this state:

13 (i) Sales of tangible personal property are made in this state if the property
14 is delivered or shipped to a purchaser, other than the United States government, within this state
15 regardless of f.o.b. point or other conditions of sale, or the property is shipped from an office, store,
16 warehouse, factory or other place of storage in this state and the purchaser is the United States
17 government, or the business organization is not taxable in the state of the purchaser.

18 (ii) Sales other than sales of tangible personal property are in this state if
19 the business organization's market for the sales is in this state, as follows:

20 1. In the case of sale, rental, lease, or license of real property, if and to
21 the extent the property is located in this state;

22 2. In the case of rental, lease, or license of tangible personal property, if
23 and to the extent the property is located in this state;

24 3. In the case of sale of a service, if and to the extent the service is
25 delivered to a location in this state;

26 4. In the case of sale, rental, lease, or license of intangible property, if
27 and to the extent the property is used in this state;

28 5. In the case of interest income, if and to the extent the debtor or
29 encumbered property is located in this state;

30 6. In the case of dividend income, if and to the extent the business
31 organization's commercial domicile is in this state; and

32 7. In the case of other income, if and to the extent the income is derived
33 from sources in this state.

34 (iii) In the case of sales other than sales of tangible personal property, if the
35 state or states of assignment cannot be determined, the state or states of assignment shall be
36 reasonably approximated.

1 (iv) In the case of sales other than sales of tangible personal property, if the
2 taxpayer is not taxable in a state to which a sale is assigned, or if the state of assignment cannot be
3 determined or reasonably approximated, such sale shall be excluded from the denominator of the
4 sales factor.

5 (2) A fraction, the numerator of which shall be the property factor in subparagraph
6 I(a)(1)(A) plus the compensation factor in subparagraph I(a)(1)(B) plus 2 multiplied by the sales
7 factor in subparagraph I(a)(1)(C) and the denominator of which is 4, shall be applied to the total
8 gross business profits (less foreign dividends) of the business organization to ascertain its gross
9 business profits in this state.

10 (b) For taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2026, the business
11 organization's gross business profits shall be apportioned by multiplying the total gross business
12 profits (less foreign dividends) of the business organization by the sales factor in subparagraph
13 I(a)(1)(C).

14 II.(a) If the applicable method of apportionment in paragraph I does not fairly represent the
15 business organization's business activity in this state, the business organization may petition for, or
16 the commissioner may require, in respect to all or any part of the business organization's business
17 activity, if reasonable, the employment of any other method to effect an equitable apportionment of
18 the business organization's gross business profits.

19 (b) For foreign dividends from unitary sources, the following formula shall be used to
20 modify factors relating to included dividends:

21 (1) Determine a percentage for each dividend payor consisting of dividends paid
22 divided by taxable income which has been computed using United States standards.

23 (2) Apply this percentage to the dividend payor's foreign property, payroll, and sales
24 for taxable periods ending before December 31, 2026, or to the dividend payor's foreign sales for
25 taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2026.

26 (3) Sum the results in subparagraph (2) for all dividend payors.

27 (4) Add the result in subparagraph (3) to the denominators of the combined water's
28 edge group. The numerator will remain the New Hampshire numerator.

29 (5) Apply the resulting percentage to the foreign dividends.

30 (6) Add this amount to the amount of New Hampshire taxable business profits
31 computed pursuant to RSA 77-A:3, I.

32 III. When 2 or more related business organizations are engaged in a unitary business, as
33 defined in RSA 77-A:1, XIV, a part of which is conducted in this state by one or more members of the
34 group, the income attributable to this state shall be determined by means of the applicable combined
35 apportionment factors of the unitary business group in accordance with paragraphs I and II.

36 288 Legislative Committee on Apportionment; Extended; Duties Revised. Amend RSA 77-A:23-
37 a to read as follows:

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1 77-A:23-a Legislative Committee on Apportionment. There is established a committee to study
2 the apportionment of gross business profits under the business profits tax, ~~[and to authorize the~~
3 ~~enactment of]~~ ***with special emphasis on the impact on the state's businesses, employment***
4 ***and revenues of moving to*** the single sales factor for the business profits tax and business
5 enterprise tax.

6 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

7 (a) Three members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

8 (b) Four members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
9 of representatives.

10 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to
11 the duties of the committee.

12 III.(a) The committee shall study apportionment among states pursuant to RSA 77-A:3 of
13 gross business profits under the business profits tax. The committee shall also monitor the laws and
14 legislation of other states concerning market-based sourcing ***and single sales factor***
15 ***apportionment*** and may study any other related issues. The committee may solicit input or
16 testimony from any person or organization the committee deems relevant to the study.

17 (b) ~~[The committee shall conduct meetings and]~~ ***Beginning*** on or before November 1,
18 ~~[2020]~~ ***2024, the committee shall examine the data provided by the department of revenue***
19 ***administration on the effects of single sales factor apportionment under the new market***
20 ***rules, and shall [hold at least 2 public hearings on the enactment of the single sales tax provisions***
21 ***contained in sections 426-429 of HB 4 FN A LOCAL of the 2019 regular legislative session. In***
22 ***November 2020, the committee shall, by majority vote of the committee, vote on whether to rescind***
23 ***the enactment of the amendments contained in sections 426-429 of HB 4 FN A LOCAL regular***
24 ***legislative session. If the majority of the committee rescinds the enactment of sections 426-429 of***
25 ***HB 4 FN A LOCAL regular legislative session, such sections shall not take effect.]*** ***by majority vote***
26 ***of the committee, vote on whether to recommend and sponsor legislation to rescind or***
27 ***further delay the change to single sales factor apportionment described in RSA 77:3.*** The
28 committee shall report on its actions to the chairpersons of the senate and house finance committees,
29 the chairpersons of the senate and house ways and means committees, the secretary of state, and the
30 director of the office of legislative services.

31 IV. The members of the committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The
32 first meeting shall be called by the first-named ~~[senate]~~ ***house*** member. The first meeting of the
33 committee shall be held within 45 days ~~[of the effective date of this section]~~ ***after May 1, 2024.*** Four
34 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

35 V. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation
36 to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the
37 house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before December 1, ~~[2020]~~ ***2024.***

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1 289 Enactment of Single Sales Factor; Date Changed. Amend 2019, 346:432 to read as follows:
2 346:432 Enactment of Single Sales Factor. Sections 426-429 of this act shall take effect January
3 1, [2022] **2026** unless upon the report of the committee established in RSA 77-A:23-a, as inserted in
4 this act, [~~that by majority vote of the committee, sections 426-429 are rescinded~~] **legislation is**
5 **adopted to rescind or further delay the change to single sales factor apportionment.**

6 290 Repeal of Legislative Committee; Change to Effective Date. Amend 2019, 346:440, XIII to
7 read as follows:

8 XIII. Section 433 of this act shall take effect December 1, [2020] **2024.**

9 291 Limitation; Horse and Dog Racing; Historic Racing Included. Amend RSA 284:1 to read as
10 follows:

11 284:1 Limitation. This chapter shall be construed to apply only to running or harness horse
12 racing, whether live, [œ] simulcast **or historic**, or simulcast dog racing.

13 292 Racing and Charitable Gaming; Lottery Commission; Historic Racing. Amend RSA 284:6-
14 a, VI to read as follows:

15 VI. The lottery commission shall not authorize the use of any electronic gaming device in
16 connection with the acceptance of wagers on running or harness horse racing, whether live, [œ]
17 simulcast **or historic**, or simulcast dog racing, the type of which was not in use prior to January 1,
18 2011, unless specific authorization for such electronic gaming device is enacted by the general court.
19 Electronic gaming devices shall mean and include all electro-mechanical instruments and devices
20 used for the purposes of gaming, other than wagering on live, [œ] simulcast **or historic** horse racing
21 or simulcast dog racing, whether in physical presence or through the Internet, and such shall
22 include, but not be limited to, video slot machines and other gambling devices which function or are
23 designed to function to emulate a video slot machine [~~or historic racing machine~~]. This section shall
24 not be interpreted to prohibit licensees under RSA 284 from replacing equipment used in the conduct
25 of wagering on live, simulcast, horse racing or simulcast dog racing, which type of equipment was in
26 service prior to January 1, 2011, with updated or new equipment which are the functional equivalent
27 of the machines which are being replaced, provided the equipment is not an electronic gaming device
28 as described in the previous sentence. This section shall not be interpreted as prohibiting licensees
29 from accepting account wagers in compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

30 **VII. Notwithstanding paragraph VI, the lottery commission shall authorize wagers**
31 **on historic horse races, whether on an electronic gaming device or otherwise, so long as**
32 **such wagers meet the requirements of this chapter. Historic horse racing machines shall**
33 **be programmed and operated for pari-mutuel wagering only.**

34 293 Rulemaking; Historic Racing. Amend RSA 284:12, IV to read as follows:

35 IV. The sale of pari-mutuel pools as authorized under RSA 284:22, [~~and~~] RSA 284:22-a, **and**
36 **RSA 284:22-b.**

37 294 License Required; Investigation Fees. Amend RSA 284:12-a, I to read as follows:

1 I. No person, association, corporation, or any other type of entity shall hold any live running
2 or harness race or meet, *shall offer wagers on historic horse races*, or shall conduct any
3 simulcast running or harness horse or dog race or meet, at which pari-mutuel pools are sold without
4 a license from the lottery commission.

5 295 New Section; Pari-Mutuel Pools on Historic Horse Races. Amend RSA 284 by inserting
6 after section 22-a the following new section:

7 284:22-b Pari-Mutuel Pools on Historic Horse Races.

8 I. In this section:

9 (a) "Historic horse race" means:

10 (1) Any horse race whether running or harness, that was previously conducted at a
11 licensed pari-mutuel facility;

12 (2) Concluded with official results; and

13 (3) Concluded without scratches, disqualifications, or dead-heat finishes.

14 (b) "Licensee" means any individual, association, partnership, joint-venture, corporation,
15 or other organization or other entity which holds a game operator employer license under RSA 287-
16 D.

17 (c) "Pari-mutuel method of wagering" means:

18 (1) A method of wagering in which those who wager on horses that finish in the
19 position or positions for which wagers are taken share in the total amounts wagered, plus any
20 amounts provided by a licensee, may include a nonrefundable contribution to serve as a seed or
21 guarantee; and

22 (2) A totalizator or similar mechanical equipment calculates pari-mutuel pools and
23 payouts associated with each winning wager.

24 II. In order to be eligible for a license to sell pari-mutuel pools on historic races, an applicant
25 shall have been game operator employer licensed under RSA 287-D as of May 1, 2020 and still
26 licensed as of the effective date of this section, provided such sales are within the enclosure of a
27 facility at which the licensee holds its licensed activities under RSA 287-D, and that such facility is
28 located within the city or town in which the licensee held its license on May 1, 2020. An application
29 that is approved by the lottery commission, and a license that is granted shall not be permitted to be
30 transferred or sold.

31 III. In accordance with the provisions of RSA 284:6-a, wagering on historic horse races may
32 take place on electronic gaming devices provided that:

33 (a) All wagers use the pari-mutuel method of wagering.

34 (b) A licensee at all times maintains at least 2 terminals offering the same type of wager
35 on all historic horse races.

36 (c) The terminal makes available true and accurate past performance information on
37 each historic horse race prior to the patron making his or her selection.

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1 (d) The terminal shall display a replay of each race, or a portion thereof, whether digital,
2 animated, or by way of a video recording, and the official results of each race. The identity of each
3 race shall be revealed to the patron after the patron has placed his or her wager.

4 (e) The outcome of each wager is based solely on the outcome of the historic horse race or
5 races; no random elements may determine the outcome of the patron's wager.

6 (f) The terminals have been tested by an independent testing laboratory, approved by
7 the commission, to ensure integrity and proper working order.

8 (g) Each terminal makes available pari-mutuel wagering pool amounts that the patron
9 may receive for a winning wager.

10 (h) A terminal shall not accept a wager in excess of \$25.

11 (i) Each licensee shall submit a responsible gaming plan to the lottery commission for
12 review and approval prior to activating any historic horse race terminal, and every year thereafter.
13 Such plan shall include identification of postings and materials related to problem gaming to be
14 made available to patrons expressing concerns about problem gaming, house imposed player limits,
15 and self-exclusion plans.

16 IV. Racing officials or any employee or owner of the entity that provides the totalizator
17 system to the licensee, and any person responsible for the operation of the electronic reproduction
18 equipment which operates the historic horse races and wagering shall be prohibited from
19 participating in wagering, directly or indirectly, on historic horse races offered at the licensee's
20 facility.

21 V. The licensee commission on all historic horse race pari-mutuel pools shall be at a rate of
22 not greater than 12 percent. In addition to the above commission, 100 percent of the odd cents of all
23 redistribution based on each dollar wagered exceeding a sum equal to the next lowest multiple of 10,
24 known as breakage, shall be paid to the lottery commission and used as payment for problem gaming
25 services.

26 VI. The lottery commission shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A governing historic horse
27 racing machines.

28 VII. No historic horse racing machine shall be operated except within the facility of a
29 licensee during the facility's hours of play of charitable games.

30 296 Authorization; Sale of Tickets; Advertising. Amend RSA 284:21-h, VI to read as follows:

31 VI. The commission shall not authorize the use of any electronic gaming device in any game,
32 lottery, or other offering which was not in use by the commission on or before January 1, 2011,
33 unless specific authorization for such electronic gaming device is enacted by the general court.
34 Electronic gaming devices shall mean and include all electro-mechanical instruments and device
35 used for the purpose of gaming and shall include video slot machines and other gambling devices
36 which function or are designed to emulate a video slot machines or other gaming machine, [~~historic
37 racing machine,~~] and computer technology to reveal instant ticket winners. This section shall not be

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1 interpreted to prohibit the commission from replacing offerings, games, or equipment which were in
2 service prior to January 1, 2011 with new offerings, games, or equipment which are the functional
3 equivalent of those offerings, games, or equipment which are being replaced.

4 297 New Paragraph; Authorization; Sale of Tickets; Advertising. Amend RSA 284 by inserting
5 after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

6 VIII. Notwithstanding paragraph VI, the lottery commission shall authorize wagers on
7 historic horse races, whether on an electronic gaming device or otherwise, so long as such wagers
8 meet the requirements of this chapter. Historic horse racing machines shall be programmed and
9 operated for pari-mutuel wagering only.

10 298 New Subparagraph; Tax; Pari-mutuel; Historic Horse Racing. Amend RSA 284:23, I by
11 inserting after subparagraph (c) the following new subparagraph:

12 (d) Each person, association, or corporation licensed to conduct historic horse race
13 wagering shall collect a sum equal to 25 percent of revenues generated from historic horse race pari-
14 mutuel pools after breakage and payment of winnings to patrons. Each licensee that conducts
15 wagering on historic horse races shall distribute 35 percent of the amount collected under this
16 paragraph to charitable organizations with whom the licensee contracts on each licensed game date.
17 Charitable organizations from within the executive council district where the licensee is located
18 shall be given preference, and no charitable organization shall be eligible for more than 10 dates of
19 revenue under this section, within a 12 month period. Each licensee operating historic horse racing
20 machines must contract with 2 licensed charitable organizations for each game date. The remainder
21 of the total amount collected by the licensee under this paragraph shall be paid to the lottery
22 commission for use according to the special fund established under RSA 284:21-j.

23 299 Unclaimed Ticket Money. Amend RSA 284:31 to read as follows:

24 284:31 Unclaimed Ticket Money. On or before January 31 of each year every person,
25 association, or corporation conducting a race or race meet, whether live racing, ~~or~~ simulcast racing,
26 **or historic horse racing** hereunder shall pay to the state treasurer all moneys collected during the
27 previous year of pari-mutuel pool tickets and vouchers which have not been redeemed. The books or
28 records of said person, association, or corporation, which clearly show the tickets entitled to
29 reimbursement in any given race, live, ~~or~~ simulcast, **or historic**, shall be forwarded to the lottery
30 commission. Such moneys shall become a part of the special fund established in RSA 284:21-j. The
31 state treasurer shall pay the amount due on any ticket or voucher to the holder thereof from funds
32 not otherwise appropriated upon an order from the lottery commission. Pari-mutuel tickets and
33 vouchers which remain unclaimed after 11 months shall not be paid. Vouchers shall be remitted to
34 the state treasurer on January 31 of the calendar year, 24 months after the year of the unclaimed
35 voucher.

36 300 Licensed Facilities; Eligible in 2024. RSA 284:22-b, II is repealed and reenacted to read as
37 follows:

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1 II. A game operator employee licensed under RSA 287-D may sell pari-mutuel pools on
2 historic horse races provided such sales are within the enclosure of the facility at which the licensee
3 holds its licensed activities under RSA 287-D. A licensee seeking to offer wagers on historic horse
4 races shall apply for a license pursuant to RSA 284. An application that is approved by the lottery
5 commission, and a license that is granted shall not be permitted to be transferred or sold.

6 301 Effective Date.

7 I. Section 300 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

8 II. Sections 291-299 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

9 302 New Paragraph; Unemployment Compensation; Fraud Detection. Amend RSA 282-A:118
10 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

11 VIII. That for the purpose of preventing and detecting fraud in the unemployment
12 compensation system as well as efficiently coordinating and streamlining integrity improvement
13 efforts, the commissioner of the department of employment security may enter into an agreement
14 with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies' Center for Employment Security
15 Education and Research, Inc. (CESER) as agent for the United States Department of Labor
16 (USDOL) for participation in the Integrity Data Hub (IDH). The department's participation in IDH
17 and any resulting use of confidential data by USDOL and CESER shall be in accordance with all
18 state laws, federal laws as well as state and federal regulations pertaining to prevention and
19 detection of fraud, waste, and abuse in the unemployment compensation system. The information
20 thus provided by the department to the IDH shall be used solely for administration of state and
21 federal unemployment compensation laws. Information under this paragraph shall only be provided
22 upon a finding by the commissioner that sufficient guarantees of continued confidentiality are in
23 place.

24 303 New Section; State Liquor Stores; Agency Store. Amend RSA 177 by inserting after section
25 9 the following new section:

26 177:9-a Agency Liquor Store; License Fee. The fee for an agency store license shall be as
27 determined in RSA 178:29, II(c).

28 304 Liquor Licenses; Off-Premises Fees. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 178:29, II to
29 read as follows:

30 II. Off-premises licenses shall pay *one of* the following applicable fees annually:

31 305 New Subparagraph; Liquor Licenses; Retail Tobacco. Amend RSA 178:29, II by inserting
32 after subparagraph (d) the following new subparagraph:

33 (e) Retail tobacco license:

34 (1) 1 register, \$216

35 (2) 2-3 registers, \$408

36 (3) 4 or more registers, \$648

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1 306 Repeal; Liquor License Fee; Retail Tobacco. RSA 178:29, V-a(a), relative to the fee for a
2 retail tobacco license, is repealed.

3 307 Retail Tobacco License. Amend RSA 178:19-a to read as follows:

4 178:19-a Retail Tobacco License.

5 I. The commission may issue a retail tobacco license to a person engaged in the business of
6 retail sales and distribution of tobacco products *including e-cigarettes* in this state. Each retail
7 outlet shall have a separate license regardless of the fact that one or more outlets may be owned or
8 controlled by a single person.

9 *I-a. The commission may issue a retail tobacco license to any business holding a*
10 *license to sell alcoholic beverages under RSA 178 for an additional fee of \$6 per licensed*
11 *location.*

12 II. A retail tobacco license shall be prominently displayed on the premises described in it.

13 III. The commission, when issuing or renewing a retail tobacco license, shall furnish a sign
14 which shall read or be substantially similar to the following: "State Law prohibits the sale of tobacco
15 products or e-cigarettes to persons under age 21. Warning: violators of these provisions may be
16 subject to a fine."

17 *IV. All sales of tobacco, including e-cigarettes, shall be recorded on cash registers.*
18 *No additional registers shall be added during the remainder of the year without prior*
19 *approval of the commission. No rebate shall be allowed for cash registers discontinued*
20 *during the license year.*

21 *V. The fee for a retail tobacco license shall be as determined in RSA 178:29, II(e).*

22 308 New Paragraph; On-Premises Cigar, Beverage, and Liquor License; Fee. Amend RSA
23 178:20-a by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

24 V. The fee for an on-premises cigar, beverage, and liquor license shall be as determined in
25 RSA 178:29, I.

26 309 New Paragraph; Combination License; Fee. Amend RSA 178:18 by inserting after
27 paragraph III the following new paragraph:

28 IV. The fee for a combination license shall be as determined in RSA 178:29, II(b).

29 310 New Paragraph; Retail Wine License; Fee. Amend RSA 178:19 by inserting after paragraph
30 IV the following new paragraph:

31 V. The fee for a retail wine license shall be as determined in RSA 178:29, II(a).

32 311 New Paragraph; Beer Specialty License; Fee. Amend RSA 178:19-d by inserting after
33 paragraph VI the following new paragraph:

34 VII. The fee for a beer specialty license shall be found in RSA 178:29, II(d).

35 312 Applicability. The provisions of sections 303-311 of this act shall be applicable on the first
36 day of the month following its effective date.

37 313 Effective Date. Sections 303-311 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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1 314 Liquor Commission; Division of Enforcement and Licensing Renamed Division of Education
2 and Licensing. Amend RSA 176:8 to read as follows:

3 176:8 Divisions and Directors. The commission shall have 3 divisions under the direction of
4 unclassified division directors. The directors shall be nominated by the commissioner for
5 appointment by the governor with the consent of the council and shall serve for terms of 4 years
6 dependent upon maintaining good behavior and competence. There shall be a division of marketing,
7 merchandising, and warehousing, a division of administration, and a division of [~~enforcement~~]
8 **education** and licensing. The director of the division of enforcement and licensing shall be subject
9 to a background check by the state police prior to appointment.

10 315 Liquor Commission; Liquor Investigator Renamed Liquor Specialist. Amend RSA 176:9 to
11 read as follows:

12 176:9 Liquor [~~Investigator~~] **License Specialists**; Training.

13 I. The commission may, subject to rules adopted by the director of personnel, employ and
14 dismiss liquor [~~investigators~~] **license specialists**. Liquor [~~investigators~~] **license specialists** shall,
15 under the direction of the commission, investigate any or all matters arising under this title.

16 II. [~~Any new liquor investigator employed by the commission under this section after August~~
17 ~~13, 1985, shall, within 6 months of employment, satisfactorily complete a preparatory police training~~
18 ~~program as provided by RSA 106-L:6, unless he or she has already completed such a program.~~

19 III.] The commissioner, deputy commissioner, assistant, or liquor [~~investigator~~] **license**
20 **specialist** may enter any place where liquor, beverages, tobacco products, e-cigarettes are sold or
21 manufactured, [~~at any time~~] **during business hours**, and may examine any license or permit issued
22 or purported to have been issued under the terms of this title. They shall make complaints for
23 violations of this title.

24 316 Closing of State Stores; Enforcement and Licensing Division Renamed. Amend RSA 177:2,
25 II to read as follows:

26 II. In order to properly reflect the operating expenses of each state store, the commission
27 shall prepare annually an indirect cost allocation plan for all indirect operating expenses of the
28 commission. All such expenses of the commission, with the exception of the [~~enforcement~~]
29 **education** and licensing division operating expenses, shall be included in the plan and allocated to
30 all state stores on a consistent, rational basis. No later than 30 days following the closure of any
31 state liquor store, the commission shall submit a revised indirect cost allocation plan to the fiscal
32 committee of the general court and the governor and council for approval.

33 317 Liquor/Wine/Beverage Warehouse License; Division of Enforcement and Licensing
34 Renamed. Amend RSA 178:11, V to read as follows:

35 V. Liquor/wine/beverage warehouseurs shall submit a monthly report both to the liquor
36 commission [~~enforcement~~] **education** and licensing division and the marketing, merchandising, and

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1 warehousing division of the commission by the tenth day of the following month indicating the
2 quantity, type, size, and brands of all product received, stored, or shipped on their premises.

3 318 On-Premises Cocktail Lounge Licenses; Enforcement and Licensing Division Renamed.
4 Amend RSA 178:22,V(h)(12) to read as follows:

5 (12) Violations of subparagraph (11) of this subparagraph shall be investigated by
6 the [~~enforcement~~] **education** division of the liquor commission and directed to the department of
7 justice for examination of issues unrelated to this title.

8 319 Alcohol Consultant; Enforcement and Licensing Division Renamed. Amend the
9 introductory paragraph of RSA 178:27-a, VI to read as follows:

10 VI. Alcohol consultants shall register each educational event with the liquor commission-
11 division of [~~enforcement~~] **education** and licensing. The commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to
12 RSA 541-A, relative to:

13 320 Fees; Expiration Dates; Enforcement and Licensing Division Renamed. Amend RSA 178:29,
14 VIII(b) to read as follows:

15 (b) After one year, a licensee may select the anniversary month in which to renew a
16 license. A licensee may change the anniversary renewal month of a license once by making a written
17 request to the director of [~~enforcement~~] **education** and licensing. A licensee who changes the
18 anniversary renewal month of a license shall not change the anniversary renewal month for a period
19 of 3 years from the selected month. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to be contrary to
20 the provisions of RSA 178:3 or commission rules.

21 321 Transportation of Beverages and Wine; Liquor Investigators Renamed. Amend RSA 179:15
22 to read as follows:

23 179:15 Transportation of Beverages and Wine. A person may transport or deliver beverages and
24 wines in this state without a license, provided such beverages and wines were obtained as
25 authorized by this title and provided such beverages and wines are for consumption only and not for
26 resale purposes. Licensees may transport and deliver to their place of business beverages and wines
27 purchased as authorized under this title, and, except on-premises licensees, may transport and
28 deliver anywhere in the state such beverages and wines ordered from and sold by them in vehicles
29 operated under the control of themselves or of their employees or agents, provided that the owner of
30 such vehicles shall carry a copy of the license issued by the commission in the vehicle driven on
31 behalf of the licensee for whom they are transporting such beverages and wines. Every person
32 operating such a vehicle, when engaged in such transportation or delivery, shall carry a copy of the
33 license in the vehicle so operated, and shall carry such evidence as the commission by rule may
34 prescribe showing the origin and destination of the beverages and wines being transported or
35 delivered. Upon demand of any [~~law enforcement officer, investigator~~] **liquor license specialist**, or
36 employee of the commission, the person operating such vehicle shall produce for inspection a copy of
37 the license and the evidence required by this section. Failure to produce such license or evidence

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1 shall constitute prima facie evidence of unlawful transportation. Except as otherwise provided,
2 beverages and wines may be transported within the state only by a railroad or steamboat
3 corporation or by a person regularly and lawfully conducting a general express or trucking business,
4 and in each case holding a valid carrier's license issued by the commission. Nothing in this section
5 shall prohibit individual retail licensees from arranging for the delivery of wine products to a
6 location central for the parties involved.

7 322 Retention of Invoices and Sale and Delivery Slips; Liquor Investigators Renamed. Amend
8 RSA 179:35 to read as follows:

9 179:35 Retention of Invoices and Sale and Delivery Slips. All invoices, sales slips and delivery
10 slips, current and covering a period of 60 days prior to the current date pertaining to purchases of
11 beverages and liquor shall be retained by the licensee on the premises or be readily available for
12 examination by the commission or its liquor ~~[investigators]~~ **license specialists**.

13 323 Prosecutions; Liquor; January 1, 2022. RSA 179:59 is repealed and reenacted to read as
14 follows:

15 179:59 Prosecutions. Any person violating the provisions of any law under Title XIII may be
16 prosecuted by county or city attorneys, or by sheriffs or their deputies, or by police officials of towns.

17 324 Interference with Liquor Investigators; Renamed Liquor License Specialists. Amend RSA
18 179:60 to read as follows:

19 179:60 Interference With Liquor ~~[Investigators]~~ **License Specialists**. It shall be unlawful to
20 ~~[resist or attempt to resist arrest by a liquor investigator]~~, or to obstruct, or to intimidate or interfere
21 with a liquor ~~[investigator]~~ **license specialist** in the performance of his *or her* duty. Any person
22 who violates any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

23 325 Enforcement and Licensing Renamed. Amend RSA 21-J:14, V(d)(9) to read as follows:

24 (9) An officer or employee of the division of enforcement of the liquor commission,
25 pursuant to an agreement for exchange of information between the department and the division of
26 ~~[enforcement]~~ **education and licensing**, for the purposes of, and only to the extent necessary for,
27 the administration and enforcement of RSA 78:16. Officers or employees of the division of
28 ~~[enforcement]~~ **education and licensing** having any confidential and privileged department
29 information obtained from the department pursuant to the exchange agreement authorized under
30 this subparagraph shall be subject to the provisions of this section.

31 326 Enforcement and Licensing Division Renamed. Amend RSA 94:1-a, I(a) GG to read as
32 follows:

33 GG Liquor commission director of ~~[enforcement]~~ **education** and licensing

34 327 Enforcement and Licensing Division Renamed. Amend RSA 179:13, V to read as follows:

35 V. Each wholesale distributor, brew pub licensee, nano brewery, or beverage manufacturer
36 shall notify any retailer reported to the commission pursuant to RSA 179:13, I who is delinquent in
37 making payment of accounts. Notification shall be delivered in writing to the licensee by a

1 representative of the wholesaler, brew pub licensee, nano brewery, or beverage manufacturer. Proof
2 of notification shall be forwarded to the commission, whose [enforcement] **education and licensing**
3 division shall issue an administrative notice for a violation of the provisions of RSA 179:13, I and
4 shall forward a report of violation for administrative action. Any license issued to any business
5 violating the provisions of RSA 179:13, I may be suspended by the commission for nonpayment of
6 accounts which are delinquent more than 15 days from the date of the wholesale distributor's, brew
7 pub licensee's, nano brewery's, or beverage manufacturer's notification, providing the requirements
8 of this section have been met.

9 328 Repeal. RSA 176:10, relative to preferences for war veterans, is repealed.

10 329 Effective Date. Section 323 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2022.

11 330 New Chapter; Propagation of Divisive Concepts Prohibited. Amend RSA by inserting after
12 chapter 10-B the following new chapter:

13 CHAPTER 10-C

14 PROPAGATION OF DIVISIVE CONCEPTS PROHIBITED

15 10-C:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

16 I. "Contractor" means any and all persons, individuals, corporations, or businesses of any
17 kind that in any manner have entered into a contract, or perform a subcontract pursuant to a
18 contract, with the state of New Hampshire.

19 II. "Divisive concept" means the concept that:

20 (a) One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex;

21 (b) The state of New Hampshire or the United States is fundamentally racist or sexist;

22 (c) An individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or
23 oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;

24 (d) An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or
25 partly because of his or her race or sex;

26 (e) Members of one race or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat others without
27 respect to race or sex;

28 (f) An individual's moral character is necessarily determined by his or her race or sex;

29 (g) An individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions
30 committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex;

31 (h) Any individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of
32 psychological distress on account of his or her race or sex; or

33 (i) Meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist, or were created by
34 a particular race to oppress another race.

35 (j) The term "divisive concepts" includes any other form of race or sex stereotyping or
36 any other form of race or sex scapegoating.

1 III. "Race or sex stereotyping" means ascribing character traits, values, moral and ethical
2 codes, privileges, status, or beliefs to a race or sex, or to an individual because of his or her race or
3 sex.

4 IV. "Race or sex scapegoating" means assigning fault, blame, or bias to a race or sex, or to
5 members of a race or sex because of their race or sex. It similarly encompasses any claim that,
6 consciously or unconsciously, and by virtue of his or her race or sex, members of any race are
7 inherently racist or are inherently inclined to oppress others, or that members of a sex are
8 inherently sexist or inclined to oppress others.

9 V. "The state of New Hampshire" means all agencies and political subdivisions of the state
10 of New Hampshire, including counties, cities, towns, school districts, and the state university
11 system.

12 VI. "Student" means any and all students of any school district, school, college, or university
13 which receives grants, funds, or assets from the state of New Hampshire.

14 10-C:2 Unlawful Propagation of Divisive Concepts.

15 I. Requirements for the state of New Hampshire:

16 (a) The state of New Hampshire shall not teach, instruct, or train any employee,
17 contractor, staff member, student, or any other individual or group, to adopt or believe any of the
18 divisive concepts defined in RSA 10-C:1, II.

19 (b) No employee, contractor, staff member, or student of the state of New Hampshire
20 shall face any penalty or discrimination on account of his or her refusal to support, believe, endorse,
21 embrace, confess, act upon, or otherwise assent to the divisive concepts defined in RSA 10-C:1, II.

22 II. Requirements for government contractors:

23 (a) All state contracts entered into on or after the effective date of this chapter shall
24 include the following provision:

25 "During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

26 The contractor shall not use any workplace training that inculcates in its employees any form of race
27 or sex stereotyping or any form of race or sex scapegoating, including the concepts that: (a) one race
28 or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex; (b) an individual, by virtue of his or her race or
29 sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously; (c) an individual
30 should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of his or her
31 race or sex; (d) members of one race or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat others without
32 respect to race or sex; (e) an individual's moral character is necessarily determined by his or her race
33 or sex; (f) an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed
34 in the past by other members of the same race or sex; (g) any individual should feel discomfort, guilt,
35 anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of his or her race or sex; or (h)
36 meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist, or were created by a particular
37 race to oppress another race. The term "race or sex stereotyping" means ascribing character traits,

1 values, moral and ethical codes, privileges, status, or beliefs to a race or sex, or to an individual
2 because of his or her race or sex, and the term "race or sex scapegoating" means assigning fault,
3 blame, or bias to a race or sex, or to members of a race or sex because of their race or sex."

4 (b) The contractor shall send to each labor union or representative of workers with
5 which the contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a
6 notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union or workers'
7 representative of the contractor's commitments under this section, and shall post copies of the notice
8 in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

9 (c) In the event of the contractor's noncompliance with the requirements of this section,
10 or with any rules, regulations, or policies that may be promulgated in accordance with this section,
11 the contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part and the contractor may
12 be declared ineligible for further government contracts.

13 (d) The contractor shall include the provisions of this section in every subcontract or
14 purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or policies of the department of administrative
15 services, so that such provisions shall be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The contractor
16 shall take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as may be directed by the
17 department of administrative services as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions
18 for noncompliance.

19 III. The department of administrative services, or an agency designated by the department
20 of administrative services, is directed to investigate complaints received alleging that a state
21 contractor is utilizing such training programs in violation of the contractor's obligations under the
22 binding provisions of this section. The department shall take appropriate enforcement action and
23 provide remedial relief, as appropriate.

24 IV. The heads of all agencies shall review their respective grant programs and identify
25 programs for which the agency may, as a condition of receiving such a grant, require the recipient to
26 certify that it will not use state funds or assets to promote any of the divisive concepts defined in
27 RSA 10-C:1, II.

28 V. Requirements for agencies.

29 (a) The fair and equal treatment of individuals is an inviolable principle that must be
30 maintained in the state workplace. Agencies should continue all training that will foster a
31 workplace that is respectful of all employees. Accordingly:

32 (1) The head of each agency shall use his or her authority under to ensure that the
33 agency, agency employees while on duty status, and any contractors hired by the agency to provide
34 training, workshops, forums, or similar programming, for purposes of this section, "training," to
35 agency employees do not teach, advocate, act upon, or promote in any training to agency employees
36 any of the divisive concepts listed in RSA 10-C:1; and

1 (2) Agency diversity and inclusion efforts shall, first and foremost, encourage agency
2 employees not to judge each other by their color, race, ethnicity, sex, or any other characteristic
3 protected by federal or state law.

4 (b) The commissioner of the department of administrative services, pursuant to RSA
5 541-A, shall develop regulations for the enforcement of the provisions of this statute.

6 (c) Each agency head shall:

7 (1) Issue a policy incorporating the requirements of this chapter into agency
8 operations, including by making compliance with the policy a provision in all agency contracts;

9 (2) Request that the agency thoroughly review and assess not less than annually
10 thereafter, agency compliance with the requirements of the policy in the form of a report submitted
11 to the department of administrative services; and

12 (3) Assign at least one senior political appointee responsibility for ensuring
13 compliance with the requirements of the policy.

14 VI. Review of agency training.

15 (a) All training programs for state agency employees relating to diversity or inclusion
16 shall, before being used, be reviewed by the department of administrative services for compliance
17 with the requirements of RSA 10-C:2, V.

18 (b) If a contractor provides a training for agency employees relating to diversity or
19 inclusion that teaches, advocates, or promotes the divisive concepts defined in RSA 10-C:1, II, and
20 such action is in violation of the applicable contract, the agency that contracted for such training
21 shall evaluate whether to pursue debarment of that contractor, consistent with applicable law and
22 regulations.

23 10-C:3 General Provisions.

24 I. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent agencies or contractors from promoting racial,
25 cultural, or ethnic diversity or inclusiveness, provided such efforts are consistent with the
26 requirements of this chapter.

27 II. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit discussing, as part of a larger
28 course of academic instruction, the divisive concepts listed in RSA 10-C:1, II in an objective manner
29 and without endorsement.

30 III. If any provision of this chapter, or the application of any provision to any person or
31 circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this chapter and the application of its provisions
32 to any other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

33 331 Effective Date. Section 330 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2022.

34 332 Application of Emergency Orders.

35 I. The state hereby recognizes that the issuance of multiple executive orders may have
36 created undue hardship or confusion and contributed to the stressful environment for business
37 operations, particularly small business entities. The penalties associated with violations of these

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1 orders, while issued in the interest of public health, should not unduly penalize law-abiding
2 businesses.

3 II. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, state, county, and local
4 jurisdictions shall not enforce, and shall reverse, any violation of the governor's emergency orders
5 regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

6 III. Any business fines issued under executive or emergency orders issued in response to
7 COVID-19 or in accordance with RSA 4:47 shall be refunded. The governor is hereby authorized to
8 draw a warrant for up to \$10,000 for this purpose out of any money in the treasury not otherwise
9 appropriated.

10 IV. The attorney general shall request that the court dismiss any pending enforcement
11 action related to violation of an emergency order issued by the governor in response to the COVID-19
12 pandemic.

13 V. Any record of violation or written warning for such violations shall be expunged if
14 requested in writing, and such records shall not be admissible in any subsequent or future court
15 proceeding. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 651:5, IX, there shall be no charge to the
16 petitioner for expungement of these records.

17 333 New Sections; Animal Records Database. Amend RSA 437 by inserting after section 8 the
18 following new sections:

19 437:8-a Animal Records Database Established.

20 I. The department of agriculture, markets, and food shall design, establish, and contract
21 with a third party for the implementation and operation of an electronic system to facilitate the
22 handling of animal records.

23 II. The department shall maintain a reporting system capable of receiving electronically
24 transmitted records from veterinarians. The commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A to
25 govern methods of obtaining, compiling, and maintaining such information he or she deems
26 necessary to manage such database including procedures for providing authorized access. The
27 commissioner shall also ensure that the database is secure from unauthorized access or use.

28 III. The commissioner may issue a waiver to a veterinarian who is unable to submit
29 information by electronic means. Such waiver may permit the veterinarian to submit information by
30 paper form or other means, provided all information required by RSA 437:8 is submitted in this
31 alternative format and within the established time limit.

32 IV. The commissioner may grant a reasonable extension to a veterinarian who is unable, for
33 good cause, to submit all the information required by RSA 437:8 within the established time limits.
34 Any veterinarian who in good faith reports to the program as required by RSA 437:8 shall be
35 immune from any civil or criminal liability as the result of such good faith reporting.

36 V. There is established a nonlapsing fund to be known as the animal records database fund
37 in the department of agriculture, markets, and food which shall be kept distinct and separate from

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1 all other funds. All moneys in the animal records database fund shall be nonlapsing and continually
2 appropriated to the commissioner, and except as otherwise provided in law, shall be used for the
3 purpose of administering and maintaining the animal records database established in this section.
4 The database fund shall draw moneys only from grants and appropriations.

5 VI. Notwithstanding paragraph V, the fund shall be initiated by transfers from the
6 agricultural product and scale testing fund established under RSA 435:20, IV, as provided in RSA
7 435:20,V, and the integrated pest management fund established under RSA 430:50, as provided in
8 RSA 430:50, IV.

9 437:8-b Confidentiality.

10 I. Information contained in the animal records database under RSA 437:8-a, information
11 obtained from it, and information contained in the records of requests for information from the
12 database, shall be confidential, and shall not be a public record or otherwise subject to disclosure
13 under RSA 91-A, and shall not be subject to discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion
14 for release. Such information shall not be shared with an agency or institution, except as provided
15 in this subdivision.

16 II. Information submitted to the animal records database is exempt from public disclosure.
17 Disclosure to local, state, and federal officials is not public disclosure. This exemption shall not
18 affect the disclosure of information used in official local, state, or federal animal health
19 investigations or pet vendor license investigations under this chapter. Database records,
20 information, or lists may be made available pursuant to a court order on a case-by-case basis. Any
21 information, record, or list received pursuant to this paragraph shall not be transferred or otherwise
22 made available to any other person or listed entity not authorized under this paragraph.

23 III. The department shall establish and maintain procedures to ensure the privacy and
24 confidentiality of animal and animal owner information.

25 IV. The department may use and release information and reports from the program for
26 program analysis and evaluation, statistical analysis, public research, public policy, and educational
27 purposes, provided that the data are aggregated or otherwise de-identified.

28 V. No animal records database records, information, or lists shall be sold, rented,
29 transferred, or otherwise made available in whole or in part, in any form or format, directly or
30 indirectly, to another person.

31 VI. Certificates of transfer shall be removed from the animal records database after 4 years.

32 VII. Any person who knowingly accesses, alters, destroys, publishes, or discloses animal
33 records database information except as authorized in this section or attempts to obtain such
34 information by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or subterfuge shall be guilty of a class B felony.

35 VIII. Nothing in this section shall limit the right of a person damaged by a violation to
36 pursue any other appropriate cause of action.

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1 334 Certificates of Transfer for Dogs and Cats. RSA 437:8 is repealed and reenacted to read as
2 follows:

3 437:8 Certificates of Transfer for Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets.

4 I. For purposes of this chapter, an official certificate of transfer means an electronic record
5 electronically submitted to the animal records database by a licensed veterinarian, containing the
6 name and address of the entity transferring ownership of the dog, cat, or ferret, the age, gender,
7 breed, microchip number, tattoo number, ear tag number, or physical description of the dog, cat, or
8 ferret, and the certification by the veterinarian that the dog, cat, or ferret is free from evidence of
9 communicable diseases or internal or external parasites. A list of all vaccines and medication
10 administered to the dog, cat, or ferret shall be included in the certificate.

11 II. The electronically submitted certificate of transfer shall be considered the official
12 certificate of transfer. A copy of the certificate of transfer of the dog, cat, or ferret offered for
13 transfer by a licensee shall be kept on the premises where dogs, cats, and ferrets are displayed, and
14 made available for inspection by the department, local officials, or a member of the public upon
15 request up to one year after the animal has left the facility. The public shall be informed of their
16 right to inspect a copy of the certificate of transfer for each dog, cat, or ferret offered for transfer by a
17 sign prominently displayed in the area where dogs, cats, or ferrets are displayed. Upon transfer of a
18 dog, cat, or ferret, a copy of that animal's certificate of transfer shall be given to the transferee in
19 addition to any other documents which are customarily delivered to the transferee.

20 III. For purposes of this chapter, an official certificate of transfer waiver means an electronic
21 record electronically submitted to the animal records database provided in lieu of an official
22 certificate of transfer for a dog, cat, or ferret that has failed the examination for an official certificate
23 of transfer because of a non-contagious illness, feline leukemia, or feline immunodeficiency virus.
24 The waiver shall contain the name and address of the entity transferring ownership of the dog, cat,
25 or ferret; the age, gender, breed, microchip number, tattoo number, ear tag number, or physical
26 description of the dog, cat, or ferret; the reason for failure of the examination for the official
27 certificate of transfer; and the signature of the transferee indicating that the transferee has
28 knowledge of the dog's, cat's, or ferret's non-contagious medical condition. A list of all vaccines and
29 medication administered to the dog, cat, or ferret shall be included in the certificate of transfer
30 waiver. The waiver shall be submitted electronically to the animal records database by a New
31 Hampshire licensed veterinarian.

32 IV. No person, firm, corporation, or other entity shall ship or bring into the state of New
33 Hampshire, to offer for transfer in the state of New Hampshire, any cat, dog, or ferret less than 8
34 weeks of age. No person, firm, corporation, or other entity shall offer for transfer any cat, dog, or
35 ferret less than 8 weeks of age.

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1 V. Once a dog, cat, or ferret intended for transfer has entered the state, it shall be held at
2 least 48 hours at a facility licensed under RSA 437 or at a facility operated by a licensed veterinarian
3 separated from other animals on the premises before being offered for transfer.

4 VI. Animal shelter facilities, as defined in RSA 437:1, I, are exempt from the requirements
5 of this section relative to transferring dogs, cats, and ferrets except that:

6 (a) All animal shelter facilities shall have on premises a microchip scanner and shall
7 maintain a file of recognized pet retrieval agencies, including but not limited to national tattoo or
8 microchip registries.

9 (b) Where an owner is not known, all animal shelter facilities shall inspect for tattoos,
10 ear tags, or other permanent forms of positive identification and shall scan for a microchip upon
11 admission of an unclaimed or abandoned animal as defined in RSA 437:18, IV and prior to
12 transferring ownership of an unclaimed or abandoned animal.

13 VII. No dog, cat, or ferret shall be offered for transfer by a licensee or by any individual
14 without first being protected against infectious diseases using vaccines approved by the state
15 veterinarian. No dog, cat, or ferret shall be offered for transfer by a licensee or by any individual
16 unless accompanied by a copy of the official certificate of transfer or official certificate of transfer
17 waiver issued by a licensed veterinarian within the prior 14 days. No transfer shall occur unless the
18 transferred animal is accompanied by a copy of the official certificate of transfer or official certificate
19 of transfer waiver. The official certificate of transfer or official certificate of transfer waiver shall
20 reside in the animal records database. Copies shall be provided to the veterinarian, transferor, and
21 the transferee, who shall retain copies for their records. The transferor shall retain a copy for his or
22 her records. If an official certificate of transfer or official certificate of transfer waiver is produced, it
23 shall be prima facie evidence of transfer.

24 335 New Subparagraph; Animal Records Database Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting
25 after subparagraph (364) the following new subparagraph:

26 (365) Moneys deposited in the animal records database fund established in RSA
27 437:8-a, V.

28 336 New Paragraph; Agricultural Product and Scale Testing Fund; Transfer Authority. Amend
29 RSA 435:20 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

30 V. The commissioner shall transfer funds from the agricultural product and scale testing
31 fund established under RSA 435:20, IV to the animal records database fund established in RSA
32 437:8-a to develop and make operational the animal records database. The commissioner shall
33 certify to the secretary of state and the director of the office of legislative services the date on which
34 the animal records database is operational. For 2 years after such certification, if needed for
35 database operation and maintenance, the commissioner may continue to transfer additional funds
36 from the agricultural product and scale testing fund to the animal records database fund for this
37 purpose.

1 337 New Paragraph; Integrated Pest Management Fund; Transfer Authority. Amend RSA
2 430:50 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

3 IV. The commissioner shall transfer funds from the integrated pest management fund
4 established in this section to the animal records database fund established in RSA 437:8-a to develop
5 and make operational the animal records database. The commissioner shall certify to the secretary
6 of state and the director of the office of legislative services the date on which the animal records
7 database is operational. For 2 years after such certification, if needed for database operation and
8 maintenance, the commissioner may continue to transfer additional funds from the integrated pest
9 management fund to the animal records database fund for this purpose.

10 338 Repeals. The following are repealed:

11 I. RSA 430:50, IV, relative to the authority of the commissioner of the department of
12 agriculture, markets, and food to transfer funds from the integrated pest management fund.

13 II. RSA 435:20, V, relative to the authority of the commissioner of the department of
14 agriculture, markets, and food to transfer funds from the agricultural product and scale testing fund.

15 339 Applicability; Effective Dates.

16 I. Section 334 of this act shall take effect 90 days after the commissioner of the department
17 of agriculture, markets, and food certifies to the secretary of state and the director of the office of
18 legislative services that the animal records database established in RSA 437:8-a is operational.

19 II. Section 338 of this act shall take effect 2 years from the date on which the commissioner
20 of the department of agriculture, markets, and food certifies to the secretary of state and the director
21 of the office of legislative services, that the animal records database established in RSA 437:8-a is
22 operational.

23 340 Appropriation. The sum of \$250,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 is hereby
24 appropriated to the department of agriculture, markets, and food for the maintenance of the animal
25 records database. These appropriations are in addition to any other funds appropriated to the
26 department of agriculture, markets, and food. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said
27 sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

28 341 Position Established. The classified position of IT manager III is established in the
29 department of information technology to develop and administer the animal records database
30 established in RSA 437:8-a.

31 342 Effective Date.

32 I. Section 334 of this act shall take effect as provided in paragraph I of section 339 of this
33 act.

34 II. Section 338 of this act shall take effect as provided in paragraph II of section 339 of this
35 act.

36 343 Community College System of New Hampshire; Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Program.
37 Amend RSA 188-E:25 through 188-E:29 to read as follows:

1 188-E:25 Definitions. In this subdivision:

2 I. **"CCSNH" means the community college system of New Hampshire.**

3 II. "Concurrent enrollment" means courses taught at the high school by high school teachers
4 approved by [~~the community college system of New Hampshire (CCSNH)~~] **CCSNH** in which high
5 school students earn both high school and college or university credit while students are still
6 attending high school or a career technical education center.

7 [~~II.~~] III. "Dual enrollment" means college courses taught by instructors from [~~the community~~
8 ~~college system of New Hampshire (CCSNH)~~] **CCSNH** in which high school students earn college
9 credit while students are still enrolled in high school or a career technical education center.

10 188-E:26 Program Established. There is established a dual and concurrent enrollment program
11 in [~~the department of education~~] **CCSNH**. Participation in the program shall be offered to high
12 school and career technical education center students in grades 10 through 12. The program shall
13 provide opportunities for qualified New Hampshire high school students to gain access and support
14 for dual and concurrent enrollment in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)
15 and STEM-related courses that are fundamental for success in postsecondary education and to meet
16 New Hampshire's emerging workforce needs.

17 188-E:27 Enrollment Requirements.

18 I. An interested high school student in grades 10 through 12 may enroll in a course that is
19 designated by [~~the~~] **CCSNH** as part of the dual and concurrent enrollment program.

20 II. A student in the program shall be provided funding for enrollment in no more than 2 dual
21 or concurrent enrollment courses taken in grade 10, no more than 2 dual or concurrent enrollment
22 courses taken in grade 11, and no more than 2 dual or concurrent enrollment courses taken in grade
23 12. A student may take more than 2 dual or concurrent enrollment courses per year at his or her
24 own expense.

25 III.(a) The state shall pay the current rate of concurrent enrollment tuition, which is
26 established at \$150 per course, to the **CCSNH** institution where a high school or career and technical
27 education student successfully completes the concurrent enrollment course.

28 (b) The state shall pay the current rate of dual enrollment tuition, which is established
29 at 1/2 the regular cost of the course, to the **CCSNH** institution where a high school or career and
30 technical education student successfully completes a dual enrollment course and [~~the~~] **CCSNH** shall
31 accept such amount as full payment for course tuition.

32 IV. Each high school should provide a designated individual to serve as the point of contact
33 on matters related to the program, including but not limited to, student counseling, support services,
34 course scheduling, managing course forms and student registration, program evaluation, course
35 transferability, and assisting with online courses. Each high school shall annually notify all high
36 school students and their parents of dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities.

37 188-E:28 School Board Policy.

1 I. No later than July 1, 2018, the school board of each school district shall develop and adopt
 2 a policy permitting students residing in the district who are in grade 11 or 12 to participate in the
 3 dual and concurrent enrollment program. The policy shall, at a minimum, include compliance with
 4 measurable educational standards and criteria approved by ~~the~~ CCSNH and that meet the same
 5 standard of quality and rigor as courses offered on campus by ~~the~~ CCSNH. The policy shall also
 6 comply with the standards for accreditation and program development established by the National
 7 Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. The policy shall include, but not be limited to,
 8 student eligibility criteria, standards for course content, standards for faculty approval, program
 9 coordination and communication requirements, tuition and fees, textbooks and materials, course
 10 grading policy, data collection, maintenance, and security, revenue and expenditure reporting, and
 11 process for renewal of the agreement.

12 II. The department of education and ~~the~~ CCSNH shall develop and approve a model dual
 13 and concurrent enrollment agreement that shall be used by the CCSNH and the school board of a
 14 school district participating in the dual and concurrent enrollment agreement program. The model
 15 agreement shall include standards established by ~~the~~ CCSNH, shall include elements, standards,
 16 and criteria that have been approved by the department of education and CCSNH, and shall serve as
 17 the framework for the development, implementation, and administration of the dual and concurrent
 18 enrollment program in each school district by clearly defining the procedures related to concurrent
 19 and dual enrollment of high school students in college classes. ~~The department~~ *CCSNH* shall
 20 further develop guidelines for the program relating to reporting, accountability, and payment of
 21 available funds to ~~the~~ CCSNH.

22 188-E:29 Budget Requests. The ~~commissioner of the department of education~~ *chancellor of*
 23 *CCSNH, or his or her designee*, shall submit expenditure requests in accordance with RSA ~~9:4~~
 24 *9:4-e* to fund the dual and concurrent enrollment program established in this subdivision.

25 344 Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Program; Appropriation. The sums of \$1,500,000 for the
 26 fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and \$1,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, are hereby
 27 appropriated to community college system of New Hampshire for the purpose of funding and
 28 administering the dual and concurrent enrollment program under RSA 188-E:26. This
 29 appropriation shall be in addition to any other funds appropriated to the community college system
 30 of New Hampshire. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in
 31 the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

32 345 School Building Aid; Annual Grant for Leased Space. Amend the introductory paragraph of
 33 RSA 198:15-hh, I to read as follows:

34 I. The amount of the annual grant for a lease to any school district duly organized, any city
 35 maintaining a school department within its corporate organization, any cooperative school district as
 36 defined in RSA 195:1, or any receiving district operating an area school as defined in RSA 195-A:1,
 37 shall be a sum equal to 30 percent of the amount of the annual payment of the lease incurred, for the

1 cost of leasing permanent space in a building or buildings not owned by the school district or school
2 administrative unit which is used for the operation of a high school vocational technical education
3 program, to the extent approved by the state board of education. For the purposes of this section,
4 the amount of the annual grant for a lease to a vocational technical education center shall be
5 calculated in the same manner as a cooperative school district. The amount of the annual grant for a
6 chartered public school authorized under RSA 194-B:3-a shall be a sum equal to 30 percent of the
7 annual lease payment incurred for the cost of leasing space; provided that no annual grant for leased
8 space provided to a chartered public school in accordance with this section shall exceed [~~\$30,000~~]
9 **\$50,000** in any fiscal year. The total amount of grants to schools pursuant to this section shall not
10 exceed the state appropriation for leased space. If the amount appropriated is insufficient therefor,
11 the appropriation shall be prorated proportionally among the schools eligible for a grant. Such lease
12 agreements shall be eligible for grants under this section, provided all of the following conditions
13 apply:

14 346 New Paragraph; Ten Year Plan for Grant Projects. Amend RSA 198:15-a by inserting after
15 paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

16 V. The department of education shall develop and maintain a 10-year school facilities plan of
17 potential school building grant projects. Potential projects shall include, but not be limited to,
18 criteria pursuant to RSA 198:15-c, II(b). The 10-year plan is intended to create a method to identify
19 and enhance school facilities in a safe, healthy, and efficient manner while providing adequate
20 learning environments for New Hampshire's students. The 10-year plan shall be updated every
21 biennium to provide the department a summary of projects and school facility capital expenditures
22 that are anticipated for the next 10 years. The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to
23 RSA 541-A relative to this paragraph. The plan shall identify new construction, renovation, and
24 emergency projects, and describe the overall condition of projects contained in the plan.

25 347 New Paragraph; Kindergarten Adequate Education Grants. Amend RSA 198:48-b by
26 inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

27 III. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, and every fiscal year thereafter, the amount
28 necessary to fund the grants under this section is hereby appropriated to the department from the
29 education trust fund established in RSA 198:39. If the balance in the education trust fund is less
30 than zero, the governor is authorized to draw a warrant for sufficient funds to eliminate such deficit
31 out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. The commissioner of the department
32 of administrative services shall inform the fiscal committee and the governor and council of such
33 balance. This reporting shall not in any way prohibit or delay the distribution of kindergarten
34 adequate education grants.

35 348 Appropriation; Department of Education. The sum of \$1,906,313 for the fiscal year ending
36 June 30, 2021 is hereby appropriated to the department of education for the purpose of funding and
37 distributing additional adequate education grants under RSA 198:48-b, I and II. Of this

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1 appropriation, \$840,039 shall be for payments for those districts that would have been eligible for
2 said grants had the provisions of RSA 198:48-b, I and II, been in effect for the fiscal year ending
3 June 30, 2020. Said appropriation shall be a charge against the education trust fund and shall not
4 lapse.

5 349 Effective Date. Sections 347 and 348 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

6 350 School Planning Committees; Vacancies. Amend RSA 671:33 to read as follows:

7 671:33 Vacancies.

8 I. Vacancies among members of cooperative or area school planning committees shall be
9 filled by the moderator for the unexpired term.

10 II.(a) The school board shall fill vacancies occurring on the school board, except as provided
11 in subparagraph (b), and in all other district offices for which no other method of filling a vacancy is
12 provided. Appointees of the school board shall serve until the next district election when the voters
13 of the district shall elect a replacement for the unexpired term. In the case of a vacancy of the entire
14 membership of the school board, or if the remaining members are unable, by majority vote, to agree
15 upon an appointment, the selectmen of the town or towns involved shall appoint members by
16 majority vote in convention.

17 (b) In a cooperative school district, the remaining school board members representing
18 the same town or towns as the departed member shall fill a vacancy on the school board, provided
19 that there are at least 2 such members. ***A member-at-large shall also be included as a***
20 ***representative of the same town.*** If there are less than 2 remaining members on the cooperative
21 school board representing the same town or towns as the departed member, or if the remaining
22 members are unable, by majority vote, to agree upon an appointment, the selectmen of the town or
23 towns involved shall fill the vacancy by majority vote in convention. If the selectmen are unable to
24 fill the vacancy then the cooperative school district moderator shall make the appointment. A
25 member appointed to fill a vacancy under this subparagraph shall serve until the next district
26 election when the voters of the district shall elect a replacement for the unexpired term.

27 III. Vacancies in the office of moderator shall be filled by vote at a school meeting or election,
28 provided that, until a replacement is chosen, the school district clerk shall serve as moderator or
29 shall appoint a moderator pro tempore.

30 IV. In a cooperative school district, the remaining budget committee members representing
31 the same town or towns as the departed member shall fill a vacancy on the budget committee,
32 provided that there are at least 2 such members. ***A member-at-large shall also be included as***
33 ***a representative of the same town.*** If there are less than 2 remaining members on the budget
34 committee representing the same town or towns as the departed member, or if the remaining
35 members are unable, by majority vote, to agree upon an appointment, the selectmen of the town or
36 towns involved shall fill the vacancy by majority vote in convention. If the selectmen are unable to
37 fill the vacancy then the cooperative school district moderator shall make the appointment. If the

1 vacancy is for the cooperative school board representative to the cooperative school district budget
2 committee, such vacancy shall be filled by the cooperative school board. A member appointed to fill a
3 vacancy under this subparagraph shall serve until the next district election when the voters of the
4 district shall elect a replacement for the unexpired term.

5 351 Appropriation; Education Trust Fund. There is hereby appropriated the sum of \$63,300,000
6 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 to the education trust fund established in RSA 198:39. The
7 governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not
8 otherwise appropriated.

9 352 Appropriation; Department of Transportation.

10 I. There is hereby appropriated to the department of transportation the sum of \$19,000,000,
11 for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, which shall be expended pursuant to this section. The
12 governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not
13 otherwise appropriated.

14 II. The sum appropriated in this section shall be allocated as follows:

15 (a) \$4,000,000 for additional Apportionment A distributions pursuant to RSA 235:23, I.

16 (b) \$5,000,000 for the highway and bridge betterment program established in RSA
17 235:23-a.

18 (c) \$6,000,000 for the acquisition of fleet vehicles and equipment.

19 (d) \$4,000,000 to fund winter maintenance operations.

20 353 Appropriation; Department of Education.

21 I. There is hereby appropriated to the department of education the sum of \$17,278,000, for
22 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 and \$10,558,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and
23 shall be expended pursuant to this section. This appropriation shall be a charge against the
24 education trust fund and shall not lapse until June 30, 2023.

25 II. The sums appropriated in this section shall be allocated as follows:

26 (a) In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, \$8,000,000 to accelerate remaining school
27 building aid payments to school districts, in accordance with RSA 198:15-b, for projects approved
28 before July 1, 2012. Payments from said appropriation shall be prorated among the districts
29 entitled to funding, not to exceed the outstanding remaining grant amount for any project.

30 (b) In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the amount of \$9,278,000 and in the fiscal
31 year ending June 30, 2023, the amount of \$10,558,000, for school building aid on new projects under
32 RSA 198:15-a.

33 III. The \$50,000,000 cap on school building aid grants for construction or renovation projects
34 approved by the department of education under RSA 198:15-a, IV shall be suspended for the
35 biennium ending June 30, 2023.

36 354 Education Tax Revenue; Fiscal Year 2023. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and
37 notwithstanding RSA 76:3, the commissioner of the department of revenue administration shall set

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1 the education tax rate at a level sufficient to generate revenue of \$263,000,000 when imposed on all
2 persons and property taxable pursuant to RSA 76:8, except property subject to tax under RSA 82 and
3 RSA 83-F. The education property tax rate shall be effective for tax periods beginning on or after
4 April 1, 2022. The rate shall be set to the nearest 1/2 cent necessary to generate the revenue
5 required in this section.

6 355 Supplemental Education Payment; Fiscal Year 2023. The commissioner of education, in
7 consultation with the commissioner of the department of revenue administration, shall determine if
8 any municipality's total education grant pursuant to RSA 198:41, including all statewide education
9 property tax raised and retained locally, is decreased due to the statewide education property tax
10 reduction in section 354 of this act. Any amounts identified shall be paid to impacted municipalities
11 pursuant to the distribution schedule under RSA 198:42. The governor is authorized to draw a
12 warrant from the education trust fund to satisfy the state's obligation under this section.

13 356 Effective Date. Sections 354 and 355 of this act shall take effect April 1, 2022.

14 357 Department of Health and Human Services; Child Care Services. The commissioner of the
15 department of health and human services shall be responsible for determining, on an ongoing basis
16 through June 30, 2023, whether there is sufficient funding in account 05-95-42-421110-2977, class
17 536, to fund employment-related child care services to avoid a wait list. If at any time the
18 commissioner determines that funding is insufficient, he or she shall, to the extent allowed by
19 applicable federal regulations, utilize available federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
20 reserve funds to cover the amount of the shortfall. The department shall report quarterly to the
21 fiscal committee of the general court on any funds expended on employment-related child care
22 services, including funds budgeted in account 05-95-42-421110-2977 as well as federal Temporary
23 Assistance to Needy Families funds authorized by this section.

24 358 Statement of Findings. The general court finds that:

25 I. Placement in corrections settings can be harmful to children and lead to increased
26 delinquency and adult criminal behavior. It should therefore be reserved for those circumstances in
27 which the safety of a child or of the community requires such confinement.

28 II. Placement of children who are not serious violent offenders in settings other than the
29 Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC) complies with The Families First Act, PL 115-123, and the
30 New Hampshire system of care established pursuant to 2019; 44 (SB 14), which prioritize
31 community-based treatment of children.

32 III. This act is in furtherance of these goals.

33 359 Delinquent Children; Release or Detention Pending Adjudicatory Hearing. Amend RSA
34 169-B:14, I(e)(3) to read as follows:

35 (3) Secure detention shall ~~not~~ *only* be ordered:

36 (A) For delinquency charges which may ~~not~~ form the basis for commitment
37 under RSA 169-B:19, I(j); *or*

1 **(B) When a petition does not allege a violation of RSA 262 or RSA 637,**
2 **possession of a controlled drug without intent to sell under RSA 318-B, or any violation of**
3 **RSA 634, RSA 635, RSA 641, or RSA 644, which would be a misdemeanor if committed by an**
4 **adult.**

5 360 Delinquent Children; Release or Detention Pending Adjudicatory Hearing. RSA 169-B:14,
6 I(e)(3) is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

7 (3) Secure detention shall not be ordered for delinquency charges which may not
8 form the basis for commitment under RSA 169-B:19, I(j).

9 361 Delinquent Children; Dispositional Hearing. Amend RSA 169-B:19, I(j) to read as follows:

10 (j) Commit the minor to the custody of the department of health and human services for
11 the remainder of minority. Commitment under this subparagraph may only be made following
12 written findings of fact by the court, supported by clear and convincing evidence, that commitment is
13 necessary to protect the safety of the minor or of the community, and may only be made if the minor
14 has not waived the right to counsel at any stage of the proceedings. If there is a diagnosis or other
15 evidence that a minor committed under this subparagraph may have a serious emotional
16 disturbance or other behavioral health disorder, the minor shall, with the consent of the minor and
17 the minor's family, be referred to a care management entity pursuant to RSA 135-F:4, III. The care
18 management entity shall develop and oversee the implementation of a care plan for the minor,
19 intended to reduce the period of commitment. Commitment may not be based on a finding of
20 contempt of court if the minor has waived counsel in the contempt proceeding or at any stage of the
21 proceedings from which the contempt arises. Commitment may include, but is not limited to,
22 placement by the department of health and human services at a facility certified for the commitment
23 of minors pursuant to RSA 169-B:19, VI, administrative release to parole pursuant to RSA 621:19, or
24 administrative release consistent with the cap on youth development center population under RSA
25 621:10, provided that the appropriate juvenile probation and parole officer is notified. Commitment
26 under this subparagraph shall not be ordered as a disposition for ~~[a violation of RSA 262 or 637,~~
27 ~~possession of a controlled drug without intent to sell under RSA 318-B, or violations of RSA 634, 635,~~
28 ~~641, or 644, which would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult]~~ **any offense other than first**
29 **degree murder, second degree murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, negligent**
30 **homicide under RSA 630:3, II, first degree assault, second degree assault, except when the**
31 **allegation is a violation of RSA 631:2, I(d), felonious sexual assault, aggravated felonious**
32 **sexual assault, kidnapping, criminal restraint, robbery punishable as a class A felony,**
33 **burglary while armed or involving the infliction of bodily harm under RSA 635:1, II, or**
34 **arson punishable as a felony.** However, commitment may be ordered under this subparagraph
35 for any offense which would be a felony or class A misdemeanor if committed by an adult if the
36 minor has previously been adjudicated under this chapter for at least 3 offenses which would be
37 felonies or class A misdemeanors if committed by an adult. A court shall only commit a minor based

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1 on previous adjudications if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that each of the prior offenses
2 relied upon was not part of a common scheme or factual transaction with any of the other offenses
3 relied upon, that the adjudications of all of the prior offenses occurred before the date of the offense
4 for which the minor is before the court, and that the minor was represented by counsel at each stage
5 of the prior proceedings following arraignment.

6 **362 Applicability.**

7 I. RSA 169-B:14, I(e)(3) and RSA 169-B:19, I(j), as amended by sections 359 and 361 of this
8 act, respectively, shall apply to cases pending on January 1, 2022 in which a dispositional order has
9 not yet been entered.

10 II. RSA 169-B:14, I(e)(3), as amended by section 360 of this act, shall apply to cases pending
11 on March 1, 2022 in which a dispositional order has not yet been entered.

12 **363 Effective Date.**

13 I. Section 360 of this act shall take effect March 1, 2022.

14 II. Sections 359, 361 and 362 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2022.

15 **364 Sununu Youth Services Center; Closure; Transfers.**

16 I. Notwithstanding any other provision, of law, the Sununu youth services center shall be
17 closed for the incarceration, detention, or admission of any child as of July 1, 2022. No child may be
18 admitted to the Sununu youth services center, or a successor state juvenile corrections facility, from
19 that date forward.

20 II. Any children committed, detained, or comprising any other status at the Sununu youth
21 services center, shall be transferred to the most clinically appropriate alternative treatment, or
22 discharged if indicated, not later than June 30, 2022.

23 III. As of July 1, 2022, the fiscal committee of the general court shall have no authority to
24 accept funds from any source to, or approve the transfer of funds to or from, any account for which
25 budgetary appropriations for or related, directly or indirectly, to the Sununu youth services center,
26 or a successor state facility, are made.

27 IV. As of July 1, 2022, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, neither the
28 department of health and human services nor any other administrative agency or authority nor
29 member of the executive branch of government shall expend or commit the expenditures of any funds
30 from any source to, directly or indirectly, fund the Sununu youth services center or a successor state
31 facility.

32 V. No agent of the state shall procure or contract with any entity to operate a private prison
33 on the grounds of the Sununu youth services center, extending to all property on the South River
34 Road site.

35 **365 New Subdivision; Commission to Study the Closure of the Sununu Youth Services Center.**
36 Amend RSA 170-G by inserting after section 21 the following new section:

37 **170-G:22 Commission to Study the Closure of the Sununu Youth Services Center**

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1 I. There is hereby established a commission to study the closure of the Sununu youth
2 services center.

3 II. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

4 (a) Two members of the house of representatives, including the chair of house committee
5 on children and family law, and a member of the house finance committee, appointed by the speaker.

6 (b) Two members of the senate, including the chair of the senate judiciary committee,
7 and a member of the senate finance committee, appointed by the senate president.

8 (c) The director of the division for children, youth, and families, or a designee.

9 (d) The director of the office of the child advocate, or a designee.

10 (e) A representative of Waypoint, appointed by Waypoint.

11 (f) A representative of the Disability Rights Center, appointed by the center.

12 III. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among its members. The
13 commission shall meet to organize within 30 days of the effective date of this section. The
14 commission shall meet on a regular basis as determined by the chairperson.

15 IV. The commission shall work with the division for children, youth, and families to assure
16 appropriate actions are taken to facilitate the closure of the Sununu youth services center.

17 V. The duties of the commission shall include determining any necessary changes to the
18 division for children, youth, and families treatment system to effectively treat all children impacted
19 by the closure of the Sununu youth services center. The commission shall consider changes to
20 existing residential and community treatment resources, as well as additional contracts which may
21 be required. In all work, priority shall be given to safe and effective treatment for children. All
22 efforts shall be made to assure federal participation for treatment services provided under this act.
23 A consultant may be utilized to assist the commission.

24 VI. The report of the commission shall be published not later than September 30, 2021 for
25 use by the division for children, youth, and families to develop request for proposals or contracts as
26 required. The report shall be forwarded to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
27 the senate president, and the clerks of the house and senate.

28 366 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services. There is hereby appropriated to
29 the department of health and human services the sum of \$100,000, for the biennium ending June 30,
30 2023, for the purpose of hiring a consultant as determined necessary by the commission established
31 by RSA 170-G:22. This appropriation shall not lapse until June 30, 2023. The governor is
32 authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise
33 appropriated. Funding shall be appropriated from within accounting unit 05-95-42-421010-2956.

34 367 Repeal. 170-G:22, relative to the commission to study the closure of the Sununu youth
35 services center.

36 368 Effective Date.

37 I. Section 367 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2023.

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1 II. Sections 365 and 366 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

2 369 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services; Sununu Youth Services Center.
3 There is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services the amount of
4 \$2,050,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, for the general purpose of closing the Sununu
5 youth services center and related activities. These contingency funds may be used for contract
6 amendments, employee retraining, and other expenses as necessary. Of the amount appropriated,
7 \$650,000 shall be used for the placement of minors who cannot be placed in the community. The
8 governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not
9 otherwise appropriated.

10 370 Appropriation; Job Training and Incentives; Department of Health and Human Services.
11 There is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human resources the sum of \$500,000
12 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 for the purpose of creating job training and incentives to fill
13 jobs which exist within state agencies with priority given to state employees displaced as a result of
14 the closure of the Sununu youth services center. This funding may not be transferred or expended
15 for other purposes and shall not lapse until June 30, 2023. The governor is authorized to draw a
16 warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

17 371 Sununu Youth Services Center; Disposal of Property by the Department of Administrative
18 Services. No later than July 1, 2022, the department of administrative services shall take possession
19 of the entire state property currently housing the Sununu youth services center (SYSC) and other
20 buildings on South River Road, Manchester, New Hampshire.

21 372 Department of Health and Human Services; Closed Loop Referral System. Notwithstanding
22 any other provision of the law to the contrary, there shall be no further expansion of the "closed loop
23 referral" system by the department of health and human services beyond that which has been or will
24 be implemented pursuant to the sole source grant agreement to Unite USA Inc. of Nashua in the
25 amount of \$700,000 dated October 19, 2020. Before the department undertakes any further
26 utilization of the closed loop referral system beyond that authorized by the preceding sentence, the
27 legislative oversight committee on health and human services, established in RSA 126-A:13, shall
28 conduct a comprehensive review of the information intended to be stored in the master index file or
29 accessed using the master indexes within and between the closed loop referral system and other
30 interconnected systems. Further, the oversight committee shall assess the privacy protections and
31 access/release limitations afforded by this system, and the adequacy of the procedures utilized by the
32 system to insure that persons using it have given informed consent to the ("opt-in") release of their
33 personally identifiable information available through the system of systems. The oversight
34 committee shall report its findings and recommendations, if any, to the legislature, the governor,
35 and the department of health and human services within 30 days of the department providing all
36 requested data and information regarding the closed loop referral system and systems with which it
37 is intended to interconnect.

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1 373 Effective Date. Unless otherwise specified, the remaining sections of this act shall take
2 effect July 1, 2021.

LBA
21-1082
3/1/21

**HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Due to time constraints, the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant is unable to provide a fiscal note for this bill, as introduced, at this time. When completed, the fiscal note will be forwarded to the House Clerk's Office.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

None

Amendments

Amendment to HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL

1 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

2

3 1 Reimbursement of Sheriff's Offices. Amend RSA 104:31, X-XI to read as follows:

4 X. *The judicial branch shall incorporate remote technology whenever possible to*
5 *minimize the amount of physical transportation and security time associated with court*
6 *hearings.*

7 XI. The [state] *judicial branch* shall reimburse the sheriff's office for court security,
8 within available funds appropriated by the legislature, \$80 for each full day and \$40 for each half
9 day, plus traveling expenses to attend any official business, for any person employed as a bailiff by
10 the sheriff's office. For the purpose of this paragraph, a half day shall be defined as a day in which a
11 bailiff works 4 hours or less. The [state] *judicial branch* shall reimburse the counties, within
12 available funds appropriated by the legislature, for all costs associated with employing court bailiffs,
13 if those costs are the result of job requirements imposed by federal and state governments.

14 ~~XI~~ XII. The [state] *judicial branch* shall reimburse the sheriff's office for prisoner
15 custody and control, within available funds appropriated by the legislature, \$65 for each full day and
16 \$35 for each half day, plus traveling expenses to attend any official business, for any person
17 employed as a sheriff for prisoner custody and control. For the purpose of this paragraph, a half day
18 shall be defined as a day in which a sheriff works 4 hours or less. The [state] *judicial branch* shall
19 reimburse the counties, within available funds appropriated by the legislature, for all costs
20 associated with employing sheriffs, if those costs are the result of job requirements imposed by
21 federal and state governments. Billing for reimbursement of costs associated with video
22 arraignments shall not be allowed under this paragraph. Custody and control of prisoners for the
23 purpose of video arraignments shall be the responsibility of the county in which the video
24 arraignment occurs, and such custody and control may be exercised by county correctional officers.

25 2 State Heating System Savings Account. Amend RSA 21-I:19-ff to read as follows:

26 21-I:19-ff State Heating System Savings Account. There is hereby established the state heating
27 system savings account for the transfer of unexpended state heating system appropriations due to
28 reduced heating system costs resulting from the 26 state buildings served by the Concord Steam
29 project authorized in 2017, 2. Notwithstanding RSA 21-I:19-e, at the end of each state fiscal year,
30 the commissioner of administrative services shall identify the unexpended appropriations in the
31 accounts and class lines for the 26 state buildings served by the replacement of the Concord Steam
32 facility. The commissioner shall deposit such sums into the account established by this section.

1 Funds in the state heating system savings account shall be nonlapsing and appropriated to the
2 department of administrative services for the biennium ending June 30, [2019] **2021**, and the fiscal
3 year ending [2020] **June 30, 2022** and may be used to pay principal and interest on bonds and notes
4 issued to fund the capital project for the heating of state facilities located at the Governor Hugh J.
5 Gallen state office park and state-owned buildings in downtown Concord.

6 3 Divisions of Procurement and Support Services; Planning and Management Functions.
7 Amend RSA 21-I:11, I(c)(4) to read as follows:

8 (4) Supervising the [~~activities and functions of the bureau of~~] planning and
9 management **functions of** [~~under~~] RSA 21-I:12, II(a).

10 4 New Subparagraph; Graphic Services Fund Established; Department of Administrative
11 Services. Amend RSA 21-I:12, I by inserting after subparagraph (e), the following new
12 subparagraph:

13 (f)(1) There is hereby established in the state treasury a graphic services fund, which
14 shall be a revolving fund administered by the department of administrative services. The fund shall
15 be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the department of administrative services. Revenue
16 received by the bureau of graphic services shall be deposited into this fund.

17 (2) The graphic services fund shall be maintained at such a level as to cover the
18 necessary costs of the administration, management, operations, activities, positions, capital, or other
19 needs of the bureau of graphic services. The department of administrative services may use any
20 excess amounts in the fund to fund the administration, management, operations, positions,
21 activities, capital, or other needs of the department or any of its divisions, bureaus, units, or
22 subunits.

23 5 Division of Plant and Property; Planning and Management. Amend RSA 21-I:12, II to read as
24 follows:

25 II. The division of plant and property shall [~~include the following internal organizational~~
26 ~~units and functions~~]:

27 (a) [~~A bureau of planning and management under the supervision of a classified~~
28 ~~administrator of planning and management who shall be~~] Be responsible for the following functions
29 **relative to planning and management**, in accordance with applicable laws:

30 (1) Recommending assignment of office and office-related space, including rented
31 space, or space under consideration for rental, to the director, who shall report such
32 recommendations to the commissioner.

33 (2) Preparing and maintaining an inventory of all physical space in real property
34 rented or leased for use by the state. This inventory shall be made available to the comptroller in
35 order to assist the comptroller to comply with accounting principles.

36 (3) Planning for any additional office space needs of the state in consultation with
37 the division of public works design and construction.

1 (4) Planning for any major renovation to state office buildings in consultation with
2 the division of public works design and construction.

3 (5) Centrally managing all space rented by, or all proposed rentals of space by, state
4 agencies, and providing central administration and management of the processes by which space is
5 rented by state agencies, except as is otherwise provided by law. Unless otherwise allowed by law,
6 agencies seeking to rent space shall do so only in consultation with the bureau of planning and
7 management. The central management and administration provided by the bureau shall include
8 assisting agencies in their selection of property, in the formulation of rental documents, in the
9 preparation of notices, in agencies' solicitation of bids or proposals and selection of lessors, in space
10 planning, in office layout, and in such other matters as are necessary for effective central planning
11 and management relative to rented space but shall not include the power to enter into rental
12 agreements on behalf of an agency.

13 (b) *Include the following internal organizational units and functions:*

14 (1) A bureau of general services under the supervision of a classified administrator
15 of general services who shall be responsible for the following functions, in accordance with applicable
16 laws:

17 ~~[(1)]~~ (A) Providing support services, including but not limited to, mailing and
18 messenger services to state government.

19 ~~[(2)]~~ (B) Providing for the general maintenance of state-owned buildings and
20 grounds, except as otherwise provided by law.

21 ~~[(e)]~~ (2) A bureau of court facilities under the supervision of a classified administrator
22 who shall be responsible for the following functions, in accordance with applicable laws:

23 ~~[(1)]~~ (A) Providing suitable court facilities for the conduct of all court sessions held
24 within each judicial district and county, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, in
25 accordance with RSA 490-B.

26 ~~[(2)]~~ (B) Providing for the general maintenance of state-owned court buildings and
27 grounds, except as otherwise provided by law.

28 ~~[(4)]~~ (C) *Be responsible for* the department's functions relating to energy management,
29 managed by such personnel as may be assigned by the commissioner.

30 ~~[(e)]~~ (D) *Be responsible for* the department's support of facilities of the department of
31 health and human services managed by such personnel as may be assigned by the commissioner.

32 6 Department of Administrative Services; Payment and Procurement Card Fund. Amend RSA
33 9-D:3, III to read as follows:

34 III. All funds accumulated from rebates under RSA 9-D:2, I(a) or (b) shall be deposited in the
35 fund established in paragraph I. Expenditures from the fund shall be restricted to the following
36 purposes:

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1 (a) Paying the necessary costs of administration and management of the credit,
2 payment, or procurement card programs handled by the department of administrative services and
3 maintaining a working capital reserve in an amount, not to exceed \$25,000, which is deemed
4 sufficient by the division of procurement and support services to cover the costs of the programs and
5 to pay amounts under ~~[subparagraph]~~ **subparagraphs (b)(1) and (2)**.

6 (b) After deducting the foregoing amounts, making such payments, if any, that the
7 department of administrative services concludes are appropriately payable:

8 (1) By an entity which is part of the state to any credit, payment, or procurement
9 card issuer under contracts secured by the division of procurement and support services pursuant to
10 RSA 21-I, including but not limited to payments for purchases and payments which must be made in
11 order for the state to obtain available rebates, or to avoid incurring, ~~or to pay, interest, penalties, or~~
12 other costs imposed on the state by issues of credit, payment, or procurement cards.

13 (2) ~~[To the state's general fund or any federal, highway, turnpike, or liquor fund, as~~
14 ~~a share of rebates obtained on credit card contracts under RSA 9-D:2. The]~~ **To the** department of
15 administrative services ~~[shall pay any remaining]~~ **to address its procurement-related needs or**
16 **expenses. The department may use** rebate amounts to ~~[the general]~~ **fund its administration,**
17 **management, operations, positions, activities or capital, or other needs, or the needs of any**
18 **of its divisions, bureaus, units or subunits, relating to the procurement of goods or services.**

19 7 New Subparagraph; Graphic Services Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after
20 subparagraph (364) the following new subparagraph:

21 (365) Moneys received by the department of administrative services, division of
22 procurement and support services, bureau of graphic services which shall be credited to the graphic
23 services fund established in RSA 21-I: 12, I (f).

24 8 Department of Administrative Services; Consolidation of Human Resources and Payroll
25 Functions.

26 I. Notwithstanding any law or administrative rule to the contrary, the commissioner of
27 administrative services, with the prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court and the
28 governor and council, may make such transfers of appropriation items and changes in allocations of
29 funds available for operational purposes to the department of administrative services from any other
30 agency necessary to effectuate the efficient consolidation or deconsolidation of human resources,
31 payroll, and business processing functions within state government. Such business processing
32 functions shall include:

33 (a) Accounts receivable;

34 (b) Accounts payable;

35 (c) Collection of fines, penalties, fees, restitution, remittances, and other moneys due to
36 the state; and

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1 (d) Such additional finance, accounting, and other functions and transactions that the
2 commissioner of administrative services determines may potentially achieve substantial efficiencies
3 from consolidation.

4 II. The commissioner of administrative services may establish the number of total personnel
5 required for human resources, payroll, and business processing functions in the executive branch of
6 state government and, with the prior approval of the governor and council, may eliminate
7 unnecessary positions and may transfer positions to or from the department of administrative
8 services to or from any other agency if the commissioner of administrative services concludes that
9 such transfers or eliminations are necessary to effectuate the efficient consolidation or
10 deconsolidation of human resources, payroll, or business processing functions within state
11 government. Such transfers may, if deemed appropriate by the commissioner of administrative
12 services, include the transfer of all associated books, papers, records, personnel files, and equipment,
13 including, but not limited to, work station and information technology equipment, and may, if
14 deemed appropriate by the commissioner of administrative services, include the transfer of any
15 unexpended appropriations for any of the foregoing (and any unexpended appropriations for salary,
16 payroll, benefits, support costs, or any other costs associated with the transferred personnel. The
17 department of administrative services may also establish new full-time temporary positions within
18 the department, if the commissioner of administrative services deems it necessary to effectuate the
19 efficient consolidation or deconsolidation of human resources, payroll, or business processing
20 functions.

21 III. The commissioner of administrative services may locate personnel whose positions have
22 been transferred in such work spaces as the commissioner determines will efficiently effectuate the
23 consolidation or deconsolidation of functions. Such work spaces may include either space currently
24 owned or rented by the state, or space which may be rented by the commissioner utilizing amounts
25 which may be saved by the state as the result of the consolidation or deconsolidation of functions.

26 IV. If the commissioner of administrative services consolidates, deconsolidates or, pursuant
27 to 2015, 276:2 or other law, has consolidated or deconsolidated, any human resources, payroll, or
28 business processing function and subsequently determines that such consolidation or deconsolidation
29 is not cost effective or beneficial to the interests of the state, the commissioner may, with the prior
30 approval of the fiscal committee of the general court, deconsolidate or reconsolidate, fully or
31 partially, any human resources, payroll, or business processing function within the executive branch
32 of state government. As part of a deconsolidation, the commissioner, after consultation with the
33 heads of such executive branch agencies as may be affected, shall determine positions to be
34 transferred to another agency, shall determine positions to be transferred elsewhere within the
35 department of administrative services, or shall determine positions to be eliminated.

36 V. Any unspent balance remaining of the \$250,000 appropriation made by 2011, 224:86 to
37 the department of administrative services for the biennium ending June 30, 2013, for the purpose of

1 selecting and retaining an independent business processing consultant to evaluate and make
2 recommendations relative to the consolidation of business processing functions within state
3 government, shall not lapse until June 30, 2023. The department of administrative services may use
4 this balance to fund such projects, functions, or activities as the commissioner of administrative
5 services may direct relating to the efficiency of state government, including, but not limited to, the
6 selection and retention of an independent business processing consultant and/or other projects,
7 functions, or activities relating to the consolidation or deconsolidation of human resource, payroll,
8 and business processing functions.

9 9 New Paragraphs; Department of Administrative Services; State Employee Health Plan;
10 Application. Amend RSA 21-I:30 by inserting after paragraph XVI the following new paragraphs:

11 XVII. The cost sharing and plan design for unrepresented active state employees who
12 participate in the health plans offered by the state shall be the same as those for individuals covered
13 by the collective bargaining agreement between the state of New Hampshire and the State
14 Employees' Association of New Hampshire, Inc. Changes to the above plan design cost sharing
15 provisions consistent with RSA 21-I:30, I are permitted with the prior approval of the fiscal
16 committee of the general court. The cost sharing and plan designs for represented active state
17 employees who participate in the health plans offered by the state shall be in accordance with the
18 provisions of the collective bargaining agreements between the state and the employee organizations
19 representing those employees.

20 XVIII. Agencies may use funds in existing class 60 budgets to pay any penalties imposed
21 under the employer shared responsibility for health coverage under section 4980H of the Internal
22 Revenue Code.

23 10 All Agencies; Electronic Mail. Unless restricted by law or administrative rule, upon request
24 of an intended recipient, an agency may provide documents by electronic mailing in lieu of mail.

25 11 Department of Administrative Services; Funding and Staffing Resource Limitations.

26 I. Due to inadequate funding and staffing resources at the department of administrative
27 services, the commissioner of the department of administrative services may suspend the obligations
28 or requirements under RSA 21-I:7-c as it applies to addressing performance and financial legislative
29 budget assistant audit findings from 2006, 2011, and 2014 regarding management of the employee
30 and retiree health benefit program, including establishing rules and operational policies for the
31 program, for each fiscal year of the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

32 II. Due to inadequate funding and staffing resources at the department of administrative
33 services, the commissioner of the department of administrative services may suspend the following
34 requirements or obligations of the department for each fiscal year of the biennium ending June 30,
35 2023:

36 (a) The provisions relating to identification and implementation of energy efficiency
37 projects in compliance with the governor's executive order 2016-03.

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1 (b) The provisions relating to data analysis and the development of performance metrics
2 for buildings and vehicles to monitor energy and water usage, use of fossil fuels, and greenhouse gas
3 emissions in compliance with governor's executive order 2016-03.

4 (c) Rulemaking required by RSA 21-I:14, V, standards for the provision of graphic
5 services which will ensure efficiency and high quality work; RSA 21-I:14, VI, standards governing
6 the purchasing and continuing ownership of graphic services equipment by agencies not exempted by
7 RSA 21-I:12, I(e); RSA 21-I:14, VII, standards governing the allocation and use of state photocopiers
8 by the agencies not exempted by RSA 21-I:12, I(e); RSA 21-I:14, XIII, management of the state
9 employees and retiree group insurance program authorized by RSA 21-I:26 through 36 and the
10 programs established in RSA 21-I:44-a and RSA 21-I:44-b; and RSA 21-I:14, XVI, public works
11 services, including bidding for major projects as described in RSA 21-I:78, as authorized by RSA 21-
12 I:80; RSA 21-I:81, and RSA 21-I:82, bidder qualifications, agency requests for public works services,
13 charges and fees, selection of persons or entities to perform public works projects, public works
14 construction and design, dispute resolution, and such other requirements or procedures relating to
15 public works as are necessary for the division of public works design and construction to properly
16 perform its duties and functions in accordance with applicable law.

17 12 Repeal. 2005, 291:3, V(c), relative to the memorandum of understanding with the
18 commissioner of the department of health and human services for the purpose of delineating the
19 functions to be assumed by the department of administrative services, is repealed.

20 13 Appropriation; Department of Administrative Services. Any remainder of the sum of
21 \$1,300,000 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 to the department of administrative
22 services for the purpose of obtaining scheduling software under 2019, 346:244 shall not lapse until
23 June 30, 2023. The governor is hereby authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money
24 in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

25 14 Retirement System; Medical Benefits. Amend RSA 100-A:52, III-III-a to read as follows:

26 III. In the case of group II members retired from state employment before July 1, 1991, and
27 their beneficiaries who are eligible for coverage under this subdivision and also under the provisions
28 of RSA 21-I:26-36, ~~[the amount payable by]~~ the retirement system **shall pay not less than the**
29 **amounts provided in paragraph II** on account of such persons **and shall** ~~[be paid]~~ **pay those**
30 **amounts** over to the state. ~~[and]~~ **Such payments shall be** used to pay for all or part of the medical
31 benefits provided under RSA 21-I:26-36 for such persons, and the balance shall be paid by the state
32 as provided in RSA 21-I:26-36.

33 III-a. In the case of group II members retired from state employment on or after July 1,
34 1991, and their beneficiaries who are eligible for coverage under this subdivision and also under the
35 provisions of RSA 21-I:26-36, ~~[the amount payable by]~~ the retirement system **shall pay not less**
36 **than the amounts provided in paragraph II** on account of such persons **and shall** ~~[be paid]~~ **pay**
37 **those amounts** over to the state. ~~[and]~~ **Such payments shall be** used to pay for all or part of the

1 medical benefits provided under RSA 21-I:26-36 for such persons, and the state shall pay its portion
2 as provided in RSA 21-I:26-36. If the cost of the premium for any retired group II member and
3 spouse, surviving spouse, or any other person entitled to benefits under paragraph I shall exceed the
4 maximum under paragraph II, and the state does not elect to pay the excess cost above the amount
5 to be paid under RSA 21-I:26-36, the excess cost shall be paid by the retiree or qualified surviving
6 spouse and may be deducted from retirement benefits as provided in RSA 100-A:51. The state may
7 require, as a condition for coverage, that the retiree or surviving spouse apply for deduction of such
8 excess cost from retirement benefits as provided in RSA 100-A:51.

9 15 Retirement System; Medical Benefits. Amend RSA 100-A:52-b, V and VI to read as follows:

10 V. As of July 1, 2001, in the case of group I members retired from state employment before
11 July 1, 1991, and their beneficiaries who are eligible for coverage under this subdivision and also
12 under the provisions of RSA 21-I:26-36, ~~[the amount payable by]~~ the retirement system **shall pay**
13 **not less than the amounts provided in paragraph III** on account of such persons **and** shall ~~[be~~
14 ~~paid]~~ **pay those** over to the state. ~~[and]~~ **Such payments shall be** used to pay for all of part of the
15 medical benefits provided under RSA 21-I:26-36 for such persons, and the balance shall be paid by
16 the state as provided in RSA 21-I:26-36.

17 VI. As of July 1, 2001, in the case of group I members retired from state employment on or
18 after July 1, 1991, and their beneficiaries who are eligible for coverage under this subdivision and
19 also under the provisions of RSA 21-I:26-36, ~~[the amount payable by]~~ the retirement system **shall**
20 **pay not less than the amounts provided in paragraph III** on account of such persons **and** shall
21 ~~[be paid]~~ **pay those amounts** over to the state. ~~[and]~~ **Such payments shall be** used to pay for all or
22 part of the medical benefits provided under RSA 21-I:26-36 for such persons, and the state shall pay
23 its portion as provided in RSA 21-I:26-36. If the cost of the premium for any retired group I member
24 and spouse, surviving spouse, or any other person entitled to benefits under paragraph I shall exceed
25 the maximum under paragraph III, and the state does not elect to pay the excess cost above the
26 amount to be paid under RSA 21-I:26-36, the excess cost shall be paid by the retiree or qualified
27 surviving spouse and may be deducted from retirement benefits as provided in RSA 100-A:51. The
28 state may require, as a condition for coverage, that the retiree or surviving spouse apply for
29 deduction of such excess cost from retirement benefits as provided in RSA 100-A:51.

30 16 Retirement System; Medical Benefits. Amend RSA 100-A:54, III(c) to read as follows:

31 (c) The department of administrative services shall provide information as to the total
32 monthly premium cost for each participant to the retirement system for purposes of calculating this
33 deduction. Deducted amounts, which shall be in addition to and notwithstanding any amounts
34 payable by the retirement system pursuant to RSA 100-A:52, RSA 100-A:52-a, and RSA 100-A:52-b,
35 shall be deposited in the employee and retiree benefit risk management fund. **The deductions**
36 **pursuant to subparagraphs (a) and (b) shall be made prior to any payments made by the**
37 **retirement system pursuant to RSA 100-A:52, RSA 100-A:52-a and RSA 100-A:52-b.** In the

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1 event the retiree's monthly allowance is insufficient to cover the certified contribution amount, the
2 retirement system shall so notify the department of administrative services, which shall invoice and
3 collect from the retiree and/or each applicable spouse the remaining contribution amount. Failure to
4 remit payment of the contribution amount in full within 30 days of billing shall be grounds for
5 terminating benefits, effective from the beginning of the billing period. Reenrollment shall be
6 dependent upon payment of any outstanding contribution or other amounts within 6 months of the
7 termination date. The department of administrative services shall provide notice of the termination
8 of benefits as provided in RSA 21-I:30, III.

9 17 Judicial Branch; Transfer Among Accounts and Classes. Notwithstanding any provision of
10 law to the contrary, and subject to approval of the fiscal committee of the general court, for the
11 biennium ending June 30, 2023, the supreme court may transfer funds within and among all
12 accounting units within the judicial branch as the supreme court deems necessary and appropriate
13 to address budget reductions or to respond to changes in federal laws, regulations, or programs, and
14 otherwise as necessary for the efficient management of the judicial branch. If the supreme court
15 intends to transfer funds which would otherwise meet the transfer requirements as set forth in RSA
16 9:17-d, prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court shall be required for transfers of
17 \$100,000 or more.

18 18 Judicial Branch; Reimbursement of Sheriff's Office for Court Security. For the biennium
19 ending June 30, 2023, the state shall reimburse the sheriff's office for court security at the rates
20 provided in the collective bargaining agreement applicable to per diem court security officers
21 employed by the judicial branch to attend any official business, for any person employed as a bailiff
22 by the sheriff's office.

23 19 New Section; Sale of Lakes Region Facility. Amend RSA 10 by inserting after section 10 the
24 following new section:

25 10:11 Sale of Lakes Region Facility.

26 I. In this section, "lakes region facility" means all land, easements, buildings, structures,
27 and appurtenances owned or controlled by the state of New Hampshire in the city of Laconia
28 formerly known as the Laconia State School.

29 II. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the governor, with approval of the executive
30 council, shall have the sole authority to sell, convey, lease, rent, exchange, transfer, abandon, or
31 otherwise dispose of any of the property, whether tangible or intangible, at the lakes region facility
32 on such terms and conditions as the governor and executive council deem appropriate and without
33 regard to any other provision of law affecting or restricting the sale, conveyance, lease, rental,
34 exchange, transfer, abandonment or other disposal of state property.

35 20 Lakeshore Redevelopment Planning Commission; Definitions; Lakes Region Facility. Amend
36 RSA 10:5, II to read as follows:

1 II. In this subdivision, "commission" means the lakeshore redevelopment planning
2 commission, and "lakes region facility" means the former Laconia state school land and buildings
3 and training center property, *excluding the separate parcel identified as Ahern State Park,*
4 *formerly Governor's State Park, which was transferred to the division of parks and*
5 *recreation in November 1994 and preserved as a state park in perpetuity pursuant to RSA*
6 *216-H.*

7 21 Commissioner of Health and Human Services; Quarterly Reports. During the biennium
8 ending June 30, 2023, the commissioner of health and human services shall make quarterly reports
9 to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the senate president on the status
10 of estimated Medicaid payments in relation to actual costs. Further contents of such reports shall be
11 as specified by the governor.

12 22 Department of Health and Human Services; Unfunded Positions; Authorization.
13 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the department of health and human
14 services may fill unfunded positions during the biennium ending June 30, 2023, provided that the
15 total expenditure for such positions shall not exceed the amount appropriated for personal services.

16 23 Department of Health and Human Services; Bureau of Adult and Elderly Services;
17 Congregate Housing and Services. Congregate housing provided for under the Medicaid waiver
18 pursuant to RSA 151-E and congregate services provided for in RSA 161-F:37 are suspended for the
19 biennium ending June 30, 2023.

20 24 Department of Health and Human Services; Foster Grandparent Program. The
21 reimbursements to the foster grandparent program through the senior volunteer grant program,
22 established in RSA 161-E:40, are hereby suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

23 25 Department of Health and Human Services; Social Services Block Grant Cost of Living
24 Adjustment to Income Levels. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the biennium ending
25 June 30, 2023, the department of health and human services shall raise the income eligibility for
26 elderly and adult clients under the social services block grant program each January, by the
27 percentage amount of the cost of living increase in social security benefits on a yearly basis provided
28 such amount is consistent with federal law and regulations relative to the social services block grant
29 income eligibility.

30 26 County Reimbursement of Funds; Limitations on Payments. Amend RSA 167:18-a to read as
31 follows:

32 167:18-a County Reimbursement of Funds; Limitations on Payments.

33 I. These expenditures shall in the first instance be made by the state, but each county shall
34 make monthly payments to the state for the amounts due under this section within 45 days from
35 notice thereof.

36 (a) Counties shall reimburse the state for expenditures for recipients for whom such
37 county is liable who are eligible for nursing home care and are receiving services from a licensed

1 nursing home, or in another New Hampshire setting as an alternative to a licensed nursing home
2 placement and are supported under the Medicaid home and community-based care waiver for the
3 elderly and chronically ill, as such waiver may be amended from time to time, to the extent of 100
4 percent of the non-federal share of such expenditures. *If at any point the Federal Medical*
5 *Assistance Percentage increases, the counties' portion of the non-federal share shall be*
6 *reduced by the amount of the increased federal percentage, if allowable under federal law*
7 *and subject to any conditions on the funding.* Expenditures shall not include payments made
8 for skilled care.

9 (b) Counties shall not be liable for Medicaid recipients in state institutions, the Crotched
10 Mountain Rehabilitation Center, and intermediate care facilities (ICF) approved by the department
11 of health and human services and servicing developmentally impaired persons.

12 II.(a) The total billings to all counties made pursuant to this section shall not exceed the
13 amounts set forth below for state fiscal years ~~[2020-2021]~~ **2022-2023**:

14 (1) State fiscal year ~~[2020]~~ **2022**, ~~[\$123,372,750]~~ **\$129,362,411.**

15 (2) State fiscal year ~~[2021]~~ **2023**, ~~[\$126,923,933]~~ **\$131,849,659.**

16 (b) The caps on total billings for fiscal years after fiscal year 2015 shall be established by
17 the legislature at least on a biennial basis.

18 III.(a) ~~The cap in total billings shall not exceed an annual increase of 2 percent in~~
19 ~~any year of the biennium.~~

20 (b) The counties shall have an aggregate credit of \$5,000,000 against amounts due
21 under this section for each fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008. The credit shall be allocated as
22 follows:

23 (1) For fiscal year 2009, \$4,000,000 shall be allocated among the counties based upon
24 the proportion each paid for such expenditures in the prior fiscal year, and \$1,000,000 shall be
25 allocated among the counties based upon their relative proportions of residents age 65 or older who
26 are Medicaid recipients.

27 (2) For fiscal year 2010, \$2,000,000 shall be allocated among the counties based upon
28 the proportion each paid for such expenditures in the prior fiscal year, and \$3,000,000 shall be
29 allocated among the counties based upon their relative proportions of residents age 65 or older who
30 are Medicaid recipients.

31 (3) For fiscal year 2011 and for each fiscal year thereafter, \$5,000,000 shall be
32 allocated among the counties based upon their relative proportions of residents age 65 or older who
33 are Medicaid recipients.

34 (4) *For fiscal year 2021, in addition to the \$5,000,000 allocated pursuant to*
35 *subparagraph III(b)(3), a credit of \$9,721,305 shall be allocated among the counties based*
36 *upon their relative proportions of residents aged 65 years of age or older who are Medicaid*
37 *recipients.*

1 ~~(b)~~ (c) The credit shall be made available as soon as possible after the start of the fiscal
2 year. The department shall adopt county credit criteria in consultation with the county-state finance
3 commission and in accordance with the provisions of RSA 541-A. The total aggregate obligation of
4 the counties shall be reduced by the amount of the credit in each fiscal year.

5 **IV. Budgeted general funds shall be applied to the funding of Medicaid long-term**
6 **services and supports after the allocation of the credit and prior to any county funds.**

7 V. Notwithstanding the procedures of paragraphs I-III of this section, no county shall be
8 liable for total billings in fiscal year 2009 or fiscal year 2010 in an amount which would be greater
9 than the amount of liability projected for that fiscal year using the methodology for determining
10 county payments in former RSA 167:18-a, 167:18-b, and 167:18-f prior to its repeal together with the
11 amount of liability projected for that fiscal year using the repealed methodology for determining
12 county payments in RSA 169-B, 169-C, and 169-D.

13 ~~V.] VI.~~(a) Any shortfall between the state audited Medicaid allowances incurred by the
14 state's county operated nursing homes and amounts otherwise reimbursed by federal 50 percent
15 Medicaid matching funds or other income, shall be certified as a public expenditure and be eligible
16 for additional federal funding match.

17 (b) The department of health and human services shall seek federal Medicaid assistance
18 match for any state audited county nursing home Medicaid expense which is not fully reimbursed
19 through rates. Any revenue realized through such a match shall be paid to the nursing homes which
20 incurred the unreimbursed expense.

21 27 Department of Health and Human Services; Prospective Repeal Regarding the Exemption
22 from Certain Transfer Procedures Extended. Amend 2018, 163:11, IV, as amended by 2019, 346:64
23 to read as follows:

24 IV. Section 10 of this act shall take effect ~~[June 30, 2021]~~ **June 30, 2023.**

25 28 Effective Date. Section 27 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

26 29 The New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Trust Fund. Amend RSA 126-AA:3,
27 I(e)-(g) to read as follows:

28 (e) Funds received from the assessment under RSA 404-G; ~~and~~

29 (f) **Revenue from the Medicaid enhancement tax to meet the requirements**
30 **provided in RSA 167:64; and**

31 (g) Funds recovered or returnable to the fund that were originally spent on the cost of
32 coverage of the granite advantage health care program.

33 30 New Subparagraph; Emergency Services for Children, Youth and Families Fund. Amend
34 RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (364) the following new subparagraph:

35 (365) Moneys deposited in the emergency services for children, youth and families
36 fund established in RSA 170-G:4-h.

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1 31 New Section; Department of Health and Human Services; Establishing the Emergency
2 Services for Children, Youth, and Families Fund. Amend RSA 170-G by inserting after section 4-g
3 the following new section:

4 170-G:4-h Establishing the Emergency Services for Children, Youth, and Families Fund. There
5 is hereby established in the state treasury the emergency services for children, youth, and families
6 fund. The funds shall be used by the department to meet the immediate needs of children and
7 families as required to ensure the department is making reasonable efforts to avoid the removal of
8 children and support reunification. The use of these funds shall be limited to instances when there
9 are no other supports or services available to meet the immediate need in a timely manner. The
10 funds may be comprised of public funds, gifts, grants or donations or any other source of funds. The
11 fund shall be non-lapsing and shall be continually appropriated to the department for purposes
12 funding emergency services administered by the department, or its providers, under RSA 169-B,
13 RSA 169-C, RSA 169-D or under this chapter.

14 32 Parental Reimbursement; Child Services. Amend 2020, 26:57, II-III to read as follows:

15 II. Sections ~~12-29~~, 30, 32, 33, 35, 44, 51-53 and 55 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

16 III. Sections 1-8, [~~12-29~~] and RSA 169-C:12-f, III as inserted by section 54 of this act of shall
17 take effect January 1, 2021.

18 33 New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; Elimination of Parental
19 Reimbursement. The department of health and human services shall be authorized to motion the
20 court to terminate any court orders for parental reimbursement either for on-going repayment or
21 arrears pursuant to implementation of 2020, 26:12 through 2020, 26:29 in existence as of the
22 effective date of any court order rendered pursuant to this act.

23 34 Department of Health and Human Services; Program Eligibility; Additional Revenues. For
24 the biennium ending June 30, 2023, the department of health and human services shall not
25 authorize, without prior consultation with the house health, human services and elderly affairs
26 committee and the senate health and human services committee and the approval of the fiscal
27 committee of the general court and governor and council, any change to program eligibility
28 standards or benefit levels that might be expected to increase or decrease enrollment in the program
29 or increase expenditures from any source of funds; provided, however, that no such prior approval
30 shall be required if a change to a federal program in which the state is participating as of the
31 effective date of this section is required by federal law.

32 35 Department of Health and Human Services; Change in Federal Match Revenue. During the
33 biennium ending June 30, 2023 any item submitted to the fiscal committee of the general court
34 which increases a draw on federal funds, as a result of miscalculation of or change in the state's
35 share of a federal match program in excess of \$100,000 in an accounting unit, shall include an
36 explanation stating if any general funds have been supplanted, and if so, for what purpose those

1 supplanted general funds will be used, and the amount of supplanted general funds anticipated to
2 lapse.

3 36 Reproductive Health Facilities. No state funds awarded by the department of health and
4 human services to a reproductive health care facility, as defined in RSA 132:37, I, shall be used to
5 provide abortion services. This section shall not apply to funding available from the state pursuant
6 to Title XIX of the Social Security Act to the minimum extent necessary to comply with federal
7 conditions for the state's participation in the Medicaid program.

8 37 Title. Sections 38-39 of this act may be known and cited as the "Fetal Life Protection Act."

9 38 Legislative Findings and Purpose.

10 I. The general court finds that:

11 (a) The prohibition of late-term abortion is supported by history and the common law.
12 The Hippocratic Oath as Literary Text: A Dialogue Between Law and Medicine, 2 Yale J. Health
13 Policy L. & Ethics 299, 308 (discussing the Hippocratic Oath's prohibition on abortion); Digest of
14 Justinian: Digest 4.48.8.8 (classifying abortion as a form of homicide); 2 Bracton on Laws and
15 Customs of England 341 (S. Thorne trans. 1968) (classifying abortion as a form of homicide
16 "especially if [the fetus] is quickened"); 1 W. Blackstone, Commentaries on the Law of England 125
17 (1773) (stating that the common law has historically prohibited abortion "as soon as an infant is able
18 to stir in the mother's womb."). The New Hampshire supreme court has observed that "The common
19 law has always been most solicitous for the welfare of the fetus in connection with its inheritance
20 rights as well as protecting it under the criminal law." *Poliquin v. Donald*, 101 N.H. 104, 107 (1957).

21 (b) The United States Supreme Court, in holding that the United States Constitution
22 protects abortion, also stated that "The pregnant woman cannot be isolated in her privacy. She
23 carries an embryo and, later, a fetus... The situation therefore is inherently different from marital
24 intimacy [etc.]... it is reasonable and appropriate for a State to decide that at some point in time
25 another interest, that of... [fetal] life, becomes significantly involved. The woman's privacy is no
26 longer sole and any right of privacy she possesses must be measured accordingly." *Roe v. Wade*, 410
27 U.S. 113, 159 (1973).

28 (c) The *Roe* Court specifically rejected the view that "the woman's right is absolute and
29 that she is entitled to terminate her pregnancy at whatever time, in whatever way, and for whatever
30 reason she alone chooses." *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 153 (1973).

31 (d) The *Roe* Court affirmed that "For the stage subsequent to viability, the State in
32 promoting its interest in the potentiality of human life may, if it chooses, regulate, and even
33 proscribe, abortion except where it is necessary, in appropriate medical judgment, for the
34 preservation of the life or health of the mother." *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 164-165 (1973).

35 (e) The United States Supreme Court, in rejecting the trimester framework of *Roe*,
36 reaffirmed "the State's power to restrict abortions after fetal viability, if the law contains exceptions
37 for pregnancies which endanger the woman's life or health" and stated that "the State has legitimate

1 interests from the outset of the pregnancy in protecting... the life of the fetus that may become a
2 child." *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833, 846 (1992).

3 (f) Already in 1973, the Supreme Court had observed that "Viability is usually placed at
4 about seven months (28 weeks) but may occur earlier, even at 24 weeks." *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113,
5 160 (1973). Since that time, however, there has been "dramatic improvement in survival for infants
6 born at the border of viability (≤ 24 weeks)." Barbara Luke and Morton B. Brown, The changing risk
7 of infant mortality by gestation, plurality, and race: 1989-1991 versus 1999-2001, *Pediatrics*, Dec.
8 2006, 118 (6): 2488-2497.

9 (g) The Supreme Court has observed that "In some broad sense it might be said that a
10 woman who fails to act before viability has consented to the State's intervention on behalf of the
11 developing child." *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833, 870 (1992).

12 (h) New Hampshire has historically seen the fetus as a separate entity from the mother
13 with distinct legal interests. *Bennett v. Hymers*, 101 N.H. 483, 485 (1958) ("We adopt the opinion
14 that the fetus from the time of conception becomes a separate organism and remains so throughout
15 its life."); N.H. Rev. State. Ann § 630:1-a: IV (stating that "the meaning of 'another' shall include a
16 fetus" under specified criminal laws).

17 (i) "[R]espect for the dignity of human life" is a legitimate state purpose. *Gonzales v.*
18 *Carhart*, 550 U.S. 124, 157 (2007). The United States Supreme Court has said that "Respect for
19 human life finds an ultimate expression in the bond of love the mother has for her child... While we
20 find no reliable data to measure the phenomenon, it seems unexceptionable to conclude some women
21 come to regret their choice to abort the infant life they once created and sustained." *Id.* at 159.

22 (j) In addition, there is substantial medical evidence that a fetus by at least 20 weeks'
23 gestation has the capacity to feel pain during an abortion. K. Anand and P. R. Hickey, Pain and its
24 effects in the human neonate and fetus, *N.E.J.M.*, 1987, 317:1321.

25 II. Based on the findings in paragraph I, the general court's purposes in promulgating this
26 act are:

27 (a) Based on the state's interest in protecting fetal life, to prohibit abortions at or after
28 24 weeks gestation, except in cases of a medical emergency.

29 (b) To define "medical emergency" to encompass "significant health risks," namely those
30 circumstances in which a pregnant woman's life or a major bodily function is threatened. *Gonzales v.*
31 *Carhart*, 550 U.S. 124, 161 (2007).

32 39 New Subdivision; Fetal Life Protection Act. Amend RSA 329 by inserting after section 42 the
33 following new subdivision:

34 Fetal Life Protection Act

35 329:43 Definitions. In this subdivision:

36 I. "Abortion" means the act of using or prescribing any instrument, medicine, drug, or any
37 other substance, device, or means with the intent to terminate the clinically diagnosable pregnancy

1 of a woman with knowledge that the termination by those means will with reasonable likelihood
2 cause the death of the fetus. Such use, prescription, or means is not an abortion if done with the
3 intent to:

- 4 (a) Save the life or preserve the health of the fetus;
- 5 (b) Remove a dead fetus caused by spontaneous abortion; or
- 6 (c) Remove an ectopic pregnancy.

7 II. "Attempt to perform" means an act or omission of a statutorily required act that, under
8 the circumstances as the actor believes them to be, constitutes a substantial step in a course of
9 conduct planned to culminate in the performance or inducement of an abortion.

10 III. "Conception" means the fusion of a human spermatozoon with a human ovum.

11 IV. "Gestational age" means the time that has elapsed since the first day of the woman's last
12 menstrual period.

13 V. "Major bodily function" includes, but is not limited to, functions of the immune system,
14 normal cell growth, and digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory,
15 endocrine, and reproductive functions.

16 VI. "Medical facility" means any public or private hospital, clinic, center, medical school,
17 medical training institution, health care facility, physician's office, infirmary, dispensary,
18 ambulatory surgical treatment center, or other institution or location wherein medical care is
19 provided to any person.

20 VII. "Health care provider" means any person who provides health care services. The term
21 includes but is not limited to medical doctors, doctors of osteopathy, nurses, or any employee of a
22 medical facility.

23 VIII. "Pregnant" or "pregnancy" means the female reproductive condition of having one or
24 more developing embryos or fetuses implanted in the uterus or elsewhere in the female body.

25 IX. "Probable gestational age" means what, in reasonable medical judgment, will with
26 reasonable probability be the gestational age of the fetus at the time the abortion is considered,
27 performed, or attempted.

28 X. "Reasonable medical judgment" means that medical judgment that would be made by a
29 reasonably prudent physician in the community, knowledgeable about the case and the treatment
30 possibilities with respect to the medical conditions involved.

31 XI. "Fetus" means an unborn offspring, from the embryo stage which is the end of the
32 twentieth week after conception or, in the case of in vitro fertilization, the end of the twentieth week
33 after implantation, until birth.

34 329:44 Prohibition.

35 I. Except in the case of a medical emergency as specifically defined in paragraph III, no
36 abortion shall be performed, induced, or attempted by any health care provider unless a physician
37 has first made a determination of the probable gestational age of the fetus. In making such a

1 determination, the physician shall make such inquiries of the pregnant woman and perform or cause
2 to be performed all such medical examinations, imaging studies, and tests as a reasonably prudent
3 physician in the community, knowledgeable about the medical facts and conditions of both the
4 woman and the fetus involved, would consider necessary to perform and consider in making an
5 accurate diagnosis with respect to gestational age, provided, however, that the physician shall
6 conduct an obstetric ultrasound examination of the patient for the purpose of making the
7 determination.

8 II. Except in a medical emergency as specifically defined in paragraph III, no health care
9 provider shall knowingly perform, induce, or attempt to perform an abortion upon a pregnant
10 woman when the probable gestational age of her fetus has been determined to be at least 24 weeks
11 or in the absence of a determination by a physician pursuant to paragraph I as to the fetus' probable
12 gestational age.

13 III. For the purposes of this subdivision only, "medical emergency" means a condition in
14 which an abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant woman whose life is endangered
15 by a physical disorder, physical illness, or physical injury, including a life-endangering physical
16 condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, or when continuation of the pregnancy will
17 create a serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function, as defined
18 in RSA 329:43, V, of the pregnant woman.

19 329:45 Reporting.

20 I. Any health care provider who performs an abortion under this subdivision shall report, in
21 writing, to the medical facility in which the abortion is performed the reason for the determination
22 that a medical emergency existed. The health care provider's written report shall be included in a
23 written report from the medical facility to the department of health and human services. If the
24 abortion is not performed in a medical facility, the health care provider shall report, in writing, the
25 reason for the determination that a medical emergency existed to the department of health and
26 human services as part of the written report made by the health care provider to the department.
27 The health care provider and the medical facility shall retain a copy of the written reports required
28 under this section for not less than 5 years.

29 329:46 Criminal Penalties.

30 I. Any health care provider who fails to perform the determination required in RSA 329:44,
31 I, under circumstances where the probable gestational age is less than 24 weeks, shall be guilty of a
32 misdemeanor.

33 II. Any health care provider who knowingly performs or induces an abortion in violation of
34 any other provision of this subdivision shall be guilty of a class B felony and, in addition to any other
35 penalties the court may impose, be fined not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$100,000.

36 329:47 Civil Remedies.

1 I. The woman, the father of the fetus if married to the mother at the time she receives an
2 abortion in violation of this subdivision, and/or, if the mother has not attained the age of 18 years at
3 the time of the abortion, the maternal grandparents of the fetus may in a civil action obtain
4 appropriate relief, unless the pregnancy resulted from the plaintiff's criminal conduct or, if brought
5 by the maternal grandparents, the maternal grandparents consented to the abortion.

6 II. Such relief shall include monetary damages for all psychological and physical injuries
7 caused by the violation of this subdivision.

8 329:48 Review by New Hampshire Board of Medicine.

9 I. A defendant health care provider accused of violating this subdivision may seek a hearing
10 before the board of medicine as to whether the health care provider's conduct was necessary to save
11 the life of the mother whose life was endangered by a physical disorder, physical illness, or physical
12 injury, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself;
13 and/or as to whether the continuation of the pregnancy would have created a serious risk of
14 substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function, as defined in RSA 329:43, V, of
15 the pregnant woman.

16 II. The findings on this issue are admissible at the criminal and civil trials of the defendant.
17 Upon a motion of the defendant, the court shall delay the beginning of the trial for not more than 30
18 days to permit such a hearing to take place.

19 329:49 Construction. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as creating or recognizing a
20 right to abortion.

21 329:50 Severability. If any provision of this subdivision or the application thereof to any person
22 or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of
23 the subdivision which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end
24 the provisions of this subdivision are declared to be severable.

25 40 Effective Date. Sections 37-39 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2022.

26 41 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services. There is hereby appropriated to
27 the department of health and human services the sum of \$3,300,000, for the biennium ending June
28 30, 2023, for the purpose of implementing certain recommendations, from a financial review
29 conducted by Alvarez & Marsal, to streamline certain agency operations resulting in greater
30 efficiencies and accountability, and involving certain transformation projects over a 4-year period.
31 Additionally, the department may accept and expend any applicable federal funds, and any gifts,
32 grants, or donations that may be available for the purposes of this section. This appropriation shall
33 not lapse until June 30, 2023. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any
34 money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

35 42 Health and Human Services; Suspension of Catastrophic Aid Payment to Hospitals. The
36 commissioner of the department of health and human services shall submit a Title XIX Medicaid

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1 state plan amendment to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to suspend all
2 catastrophic aid payments to hospitals effective for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

3 43 Appropriation; Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services; Support for Veterans
4 Mental Health and Social Isolation. There is hereby appropriated to the department of military
5 affairs and veterans services the sum of \$1,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 for the
6 purposes of supporting services to combat struggles with mental health and social isolation. This
7 appropriation shall not lapse until June 30, 2023. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for
8 said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

9 44 Effective Date. Section 43 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

10 45 New Subdivision; Controlled Drug Prescription Health and Safety Program. Amend RSA
11 126-A by inserting after section 88 the following new subdivision:

Controlled Drug Prescription Health and Safety Program

12 126-A:89 Definitions. In this subdivision:

13 I.(a) "Chronic pain" means a state in which pain persists beyond the usual course of an acute
14 disease or healing of an injury, or that might or might not be associated with an acute or chronic
15 pathologic process that causes continuous or intermittent pain over months or years. It also includes
16 intermittent episodic pain that might require periodic treatment.
17

18 (1) For the purpose of this subdivision, chronic pain does not cover or in any way
19 determine treatment for pain from terminal disease.

20 (2) For the purpose of this subdivision, chronic pain includes but may not be limited
21 to pain defined as "chronic," "intractable," "high impact," "chronic episodic," and "chronic relapsing."

22 (b) A diagnosis of chronic pain made by a practitioner licensed in any of the states in the
23 United States or the District of Columbia and supported by written documentation of the diagnosis
24 by the treating practitioner shall constitute proof that the patient suffers from chronic pain.

25 II. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of health and human
26 services.

27 III. "Controlled substance" means controlled drugs as defined in RSA 318-B:1, VI.

28 IV. "Department" means the department of health and human services, established in RSA

29 126-A:4.

30 V. "Dispense" means to deliver a controlled substance by lawful means and includes the
31 packaging, labeling, or compounding necessary to prepare the substance for such delivery.

32 VI. "Dispenser" means a person or entity who is lawfully authorized to deliver a schedule II-
33 IV controlled substance, but does not include:

34 (a) A licensed hospital pharmacy that dispenses less than a 48-hour supply of a schedule
35 II-IV controlled substance from a hospital emergency department or that dispenses for
36 administration in the hospital;

37 (b) A practitioner, or other authorized person who administers such a substance;

1 (c) A wholesale distributor of a schedule II-IV controlled substance or its analog;

2 (d) A prescriber who dispenses less than a 48-hour supply of a schedule II-IV controlled
3 substance from a hospital emergency department to a patient; or

4 (e) A veterinarian who dispenses less than a 48-hour supply of a schedule II-IV
5 controlled substance to a patient.

6 VII. "Patient" means the person or animal who is the ultimate user of a controlled substance
7 for whom a lawful prescription is issued and for whom a controlled substance or other such drug is
8 lawfully dispensed.

9 VIII. "Practitioner" means a physician, dentist, podiatrist, veterinarian, pharmacist, APRN,
10 physician assistant, naturopath, or other person licensed or otherwise permitted to prescribe,
11 dispense, or administer a controlled substance in the course of licensed professional practice.
12 "Practitioner" shall also include practitioners with a federal license to prescribe or administer a
13 controlled substance.

14 IX. "Prescribe" means to issue a direction or authorization, by prescription, permitting a
15 patient to lawfully obtain controlled substances.

16 X. "Prescriber" means a practitioner or other authorized person who prescribes a schedule
17 II, III, or IV controlled substance.

18 XI. "Program" means the controlled drug prescription health and safety program that
19 electronically facilitates the confidential sharing of information relating to the prescribing and
20 dispensing of controlled substances listed in schedules II-IV, established by the department
21 pursuant to RSA 126-A:90.

22 126-A:90 Controlled Drug Prescription Health and Safety Program Established.

23 I. The department shall design, establish, and contract with a third party for the
24 implementation and operation of an electronic system to facilitate the confidential sharing of
25 information relating to the prescribing and dispensing of schedule II-IV controlled substances, by
26 prescribers and dispensers within the state.

27 II. The department may establish fees for the establishment, administration, operations and
28 maintenance of the program. The program may also be supported through grants and gifts. The fee
29 charged to individuals requesting their own prescription information shall not exceed the actual cost
30 of providing that information.

31 III. Prescription information held by the program relating to any individual shall be deleted
32 3 years after the initial prescription was dispensed. All de-identified data may be kept for statistical
33 and analytical purposes in perpetuity.

34 IV. The commissioner shall establish an advisory council, as provided in RSA 126-A:96.

35 126-A:91 Controlled Drug Prescription Health and Safety Program Operation.

1 I. The department shall develop a system of registration for all prescribers and dispensers of
2 schedule II-IV controlled substances within the state. The system of registration shall be
3 established by rules adopted by the department, pursuant to RSA 541-A.

4 II. All prescribers and dispensers authorized to prescribe or dispense schedule II-IV
5 controlled substances within the state shall be required to register with the program as follows:

6 (a) Practitioners who prescribe but do not dispense schedule II-IV controlled substances
7 shall register with the program as a prescriber;

8 (b) Practitioners who dispense but do not prescribe schedule II-IV controlled substances
9 shall register with the program as a dispenser unless exempted pursuant to RSA 126-A:89, VI; and

10 (c) Practitioners who prescribe and dispense schedule II-IV controlled substances shall
11 register with the program as both a prescriber and a dispenser unless exempted pursuant to RSA
12 126-A:89, VI.

13 III. Only registered prescribers, dispensers, or their designees, and federal health
14 prescribers and dispensers working in federal facilities located in New Hampshire, Massachusetts,
15 Maine, and Vermont shall be eligible to access the program.

16 IV. The chief medical examiner and delegates may register and access the program.

17 V. Each dispenser shall submit to the program the information regarding each dispensing of
18 a schedule II-IV controlled substance. Any dispenser located outside the boundaries of the state of
19 New Hampshire and who is licensed and registered by the pharmacy board, established in RSA
20 318:2, shall submit information regarding each prescription dispensed to a patient who resides
21 within New Hampshire.

22 VI. Each dispenser required to report under paragraph V of this section shall submit to the
23 program by electronic means information for each dispensing that shall include, but not be limited
24 to:

25 (a) Dispenser's Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration number.

26 (b) Prescriber's DEA registration number.

27 (c) Date of dispensing.

28 (d) Prescription number.

29 (e) Number of refills granted.

30 (f) National Drug Code (NDC) of drug dispensed.

31 (g) Quantity dispensed.

32 (h) Number of days supply of drug.

33 (i) Patient's name.

34 (j) Patient's address.

35 (k) Patient's date of birth.

36 (l) Patient's telephone number, if available.

37 (m) Date prescription was written by prescriber.

1 (n) Whether the prescription is new or a refill.

2 (o) Source of payment for prescription.

3 VII.(a) Except as provided in subparagraphs (b) and (c), each dispenser shall submit the
4 required information in accordance with transmission methods daily by the close of business on the
5 next business day from the date the prescription was dispensed.

6 (b) Veterinarians shall submit the information required under subparagraph (a) no more
7 than 7 days from the date the prescription was dispensed.

8 (c) Dispensers who have a federal Drug Enforcement Administration license, but who do
9 not dispense controlled substances may request a waiver from the requirements of subparagraph (a)
10 from the department.

11 VIII. The program administrator may issue a waiver to a dispenser that is unable to submit
12 prescription information by electronic means. Such waiver may permit the dispenser to submit
13 prescription information by paper form or other means, provided all information required by
14 paragraph VI is submitted in this alternative format and within the established time limit.

15 IX. The program administrator may grant a reasonable extension to a dispenser that is
16 unable, for good cause, to submit all the information required by paragraph V within the established
17 time limits.

18 X. Any dispenser who in good faith reports to the program as required by paragraphs V and
19 VI shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability as the result of such good faith reporting.

20 126-A:92 Confidentiality.

21 I. Information contained in the program, information obtained from it, and information
22 contained in the records of requests for information from the program, is confidential, is not a public
23 record or otherwise subject to disclosure under RSA 91-A, and is not subject to discovery, subpoena,
24 or other means of legal compulsion for release and shall not be shared with an agency or institution,
25 except as provided in this subdivision. This paragraph shall not prevent a practitioner from using or
26 disclosing program information about a patient to others who are authorized by state or federal law
27 or regulations to receive program information.

28 II. The department shall establish and maintain procedures to ensure the privacy and
29 confidentiality of patients and patient information.

30 III. The department may use and release information and reports from the program for
31 program analysis and evaluation, statistical analysis, public research, public policy, and educational
32 purposes, provided that the data are aggregated or otherwise de-identified at all levels of use. The
33 department shall not acquire, use or release information from the program for these purposes unless
34 all patient-specific protected health information has been de-identified in accordance with section
35 164.514(b)(2) of the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

36 126-A:93 Providing Controlled Drug Prescription Health and Safety Information.

1 I. The program administrator may provide information in the prescription health and safety
2 program upon request only to the following persons:

3 (a) By electronic or written request to prescribers, dispensers, and the chief medical
4 examiner and delegates within the state who are registered with the program:

5 (1) For the purpose of providing medical or pharmaceutical care to a specific patient
6 with whom the requester has a practitioner-patient relationship. This shall not include department
7 staff seeking to access the program for state, federal or private agency purposes, or on behalf of the
8 department or other requesting agency;

9 (2) For reviewing information regarding prescriptions issued or dispensed by the
10 requester; or

11 (3) For the purpose of investigating the death of an individual;

12 (b) By written request, to:

13 (1) A patient who requests his or her own prescription monitoring information.

14 (2) The board of dentistry, the board of medicine, the board of nursing, the board of
15 registration in optometry, the board of podiatry, the board of veterinary medicine, and the pharmacy
16 board; provided, however, that the request is pursuant to the boards' official duties and
17 responsibilities and the disclosures to each board relate only to its licensees and only with respect to
18 those licensees whose prescribing or dispensing activities indicate possible fraudulent conduct.

19 (3) Authorized law enforcement officials on a case-by-case basis for the purpose of
20 investigation and prosecution of a criminal offense when presented with a court order based on
21 probable cause. No law enforcement agency or official shall have direct access to query program
22 information.

23 (4) A practitioner or consultant retained by the state to review the system
24 information of an impaired practitioner program participant or a referral who has agreed to be
25 evaluated or monitored through the program and who has separately agreed in writing to the
26 consultant's access to and review of such information.

27 (c) By electronic or written request on a case-by-case basis to:

28 (1) A controlled prescription drug health and safety program from another state;
29 provided, that there is an agreement in place with the other state to ensure that the information is
30 used or disseminated pursuant to the requirements of this state.

31 (2) An entity that operates a secure interstate prescription drug data exchange
32 system for the purpose of interoperability and the mutual secure exchange of information among
33 prescription drug monitoring programs, provided that there is an agreement in place with the entity
34 to ensure that the information is used or disseminated pursuant to the requirements of this state.

35 II. The program administrator shall notify the appropriate regulatory board listed in
36 subparagraph I(b)(2) and the prescriber or dispenser at such regular intervals as may be established
37 by the department if there is reasonable cause to believe a violation of law or breach of professional

1 standards may have occurred. The program administrator shall provide prescription information
2 required or necessary for an investigation.

3 III. The program administrator shall review the information to identify information that
4 appears to indicate whether a person may be obtaining prescriptions in a manner that may
5 represent misuse or abuse of schedule II-IV controlled substances. When such information is
6 identified, the program administrator shall notify the practitioner who prescribed the prescription.

7 IV. The program administrator shall make a report, at least annually, commencing on
8 November 1, 2021, to the senate president, the speaker of the house of representatives, the oversight
9 committee on health and human services, established in RSA 126-A:13, the advisory council
10 established in RSA 126-A:96 and the licensing boards of all professions required to use the program
11 relative to the effectiveness of the program.

12 126-A:94 Unlawful Act and Penalties.

13 I. Any dispenser or prescriber who fails to submit the information required in RSA 126-A:91
14 or knowingly submits incorrect information shall be subject to a warning letter and provided with an
15 opportunity to correct the failure. Any dispenser or prescriber who subsequently fails to correct or
16 fails to resubmit the information may be subject to discipline by the appropriate regulatory board.

17 II. Any dispenser or prescriber whose failure to report the dispensing of a schedule II-IV
18 controlled substance that conceals a pattern of diversion of controlled substances into illegal use
19 shall be guilty of a violation and subject to the penalties established under RSA 318-B:26 and the
20 department's and appropriate regulatory board's rules as applicable. In addition, such dispenser or
21 prescriber may be subject to appropriate criminal charges if the failure to report is determined to
22 have been done knowingly to conceal criminal activity.

23 III. Any person who engages in prescribing or dispensing of controlled substances in
24 schedule II-IV without having registered with the program may be subject to discipline by the
25 appropriate regulatory board.

26 IV. Any person, including department staff, authorized to receive program information who
27 knowingly discloses such information in violation of this subdivision shall be subject to discipline by
28 the appropriate regulatory board and to all other relevant penalties under state and federal law.

29 V. Any person authorized to receive program information who uses such information for a
30 purpose in violation of this subdivision shall be subject to disciplinary action by the appropriate
31 regulatory board and to all other relevant penalties under state and federal law.

32 VI. Unauthorized use or disclosure of program information shall be grounds for disciplinary
33 action by the relevant regulatory board.

34 VII. Any person who knowingly accesses, alters, destroys, or discloses program information
35 except as authorized in this subdivision or attempts to obtain such information by fraud, deceit,
36 misrepresentation, or subterfuge shall be guilty of a class B felony.

1 126-A:95 Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, necessary to
2 implement and maintain the program including:

3 I. The criteria for registration by dispensers and prescribers.

4 II. The criteria for a waiver pursuant to RSA 126-A:91, VIII for dispensers with limited
5 electronic access to the program.

6 III. The criteria for reviewing the prescribing and dispensing information collected by the
7 program.

8 IV. The criteria for reporting matters to the applicable health care regulatory board for
9 further investigation.

10 V. The criteria for notifying practitioners of individuals that are engaged in obtaining
11 controlled substances from multiple practitioners or dispensers.

12 VI. Content and format of all forms required under this subdivision.

13 126-A:96 Advisory Council Established.

14 I. There is hereby established an advisory council to carry out the duties under this
15 subdivision. Members of the council shall not be compensated for serving on the council, or serve on
16 the council for more than one 5-year term except for the attorney general, or designee, or the
17 commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee. The members of the
18 council shall be as follows:

19 (a) A member of the board of medicine, appointed by such board.

20 (b) A member of the pharmacy board, appointed by such board.

21 (c) A member of the board of dental examiners, appointed by such board.

22 (d) A member of the New Hampshire board of nursing, appointed by such board.

23 (e) A member of the board of veterinary medicine, appointed by such board.

24 (f) A physician appointed by the New Hampshire Medical Society.

25 (g) A dentist appointed by the New Hampshire Dental Society.

26 (h) A chief of police appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police.

27 (i) A community pharmacist appointed jointly by the New Hampshire Pharmacists
28 Association, the New Hampshire Independent Pharmacy Association, and the New Hampshire
29 Association of Chain Drug Stores.

30 (j) Two public members appointed by the governor's commission on alcohol and drug
31 abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery, one of whom may be a member of the commission.

32 (k) A hospital administrator appointed by the New Hampshire Hospital Association.

33 (l) A nurse practitioner appointed by the New Hampshire Nurse Practitioner
34 Association.

35 (m) A veterinarian appointed by the New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association.

36 (n) The attorney general, or designee.

37 (o) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.

1 (p) A member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

2 (q) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
3 of representatives.

4 II. The council shall:

5 (a) Make recommendations to the department relating to the design, implementation,
6 and maintenance of the program, including recommendations relating to:

7 (1) Rules.

8 (2) Legislation.

9 (3) Sources of funding, including grant funds and other sources of federal, private, or
10 state funds;

11 (b) Review the program's annual report and make recommendations to the department
12 regarding the operation of the program.

13 (c) Provide ongoing advice and consultation on the implementation and operation of the
14 program, including recommendations relating to:

15 (1) Changes in the program to reflect advances in technology and best practices.

16 (2) Changes to statutory requirements.

17 (3) The design and implementation of an ongoing evaluation component of the
18 program.

19 (d) Advise the commissioner regarding the implementation of this subdivision.

20 (e) Adopt rules necessary for the operation of the council.

21 (f) Develop a mission statement for the program and strategic goals for its
22 implementation, develop metrics in conjunction with the legislative budget assistant to measure the
23 program's efficient operation, review the performance of the program against the metrics, and make
24 recommendations to the program, and ensure they are incorporated.

25 III. The council shall meet at least quarterly to effectuate its goals. A chairperson shall be
26 elected by the members. A majority of the members of the council constitutes a quorum for the
27 transaction of business. Action by the council shall require the approval of a majority of the
28 members of the council.

29 IV. Members of the advisory council, previously established in RSA 318-B:38, shall be
30 appointed as members of the advisory council established under this section to the extent possible.

31 126-A:97 Competency Requirements. Except for veterinarians who shall complete continuing
32 education requirements in accordance with RSA 332-B:7-a, XV, all prescribers required to register
33 with the program who possess a United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) license
34 number shall complete 3 contact hours of free appropriate prescriber's regulatory board-approved
35 online continuing education or pass an online examination, in the area of pain management and
36 addiction disorder or a combination, as a condition for initial licensure and license renewal.
37 Verification of successful completion of the examination or of the required continuing education shall

1 be submitted to the prescriber's regulatory board with the licensee's application for initial licensure
2 or renewal. A list of the prescriber's regulatory boards' approved continuing education courses and
3 online examinations in pain management and addiction disorder, shall be available on the
4 department of health and human service's Internet website.

5 46 Repeal. OPLC; Controlled Drug Prescription Health and Safety Program. RSA 318-B:31-
6 38, relative to the controlled drug prescription health and safety program, are repealed.

7 47 Reference Corrected. Veterinary Board. Amend RSA 332-B:3, I (b) to read as follows:

8 (b) Representing the board on the advisory council established in ~~RSA [318-B:38]~~ **126-**
9 **A:96;**

10 48 Revenue Sharing; Suspension. RSA 31-A, relative to revenue sharing with cities and towns
11 shall be suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

12 49 Liquor Commission; Processing of Merchant Cards. For the biennium ending June 30, 2023,
13 the liquor commission, for purposes of supporting merchant card activity, may:

14 I. Implement necessary business strategies in the event of a disaster or loss of services to
15 insure the continuity of the commission's business operations, including the processing of merchant
16 cards, which includes the ability to transfer funds from accounting unit 01-03-03-030010-7677 in
17 consultation with the commissioner of the department of information technology. The commissioner
18 shall report to the fiscal committee of the general court within 30 days any instances where it would
19 need to implement such business strategies, including any costs and loss of revenue associated with
20 the disaster or loss of services and the implementation of such business strategies.

21 II. Enter into contracts for technical and hosting services to support retail operations and
22 merchant card processing. The commission shall comply with RSA 176:18 for any contracts entered
23 into to support retail operations and merchant card processing.

24 III. Hire information technology technical support personnel to support its merchant card
25 activity and related technical support operations in retail stores.

26 50 Department of Education; Acceptance of Gifts. For the biennium ending June 30, 2023, the
27 department of education may, subject to the approval of the governor and council, accept gifts,
28 contributions, and bequests of unrestricted funds from individuals, foundations, corporations, and
29 other organizations or institutions for the purpose of funding appropriations for New Hampshire
30 scholars made in accounting unit 06-56-56-562010-7534.

31 ~~51~~ Certain Differential Aid Calculations; Fiscal Year 2022.

32 I. Average Daily Membership in Attendance; Fiscal Year 2022. The commissioner of the
33 department of education shall compare the average daily membership in attendance (ADMA),
34 defined in RSA 198:38, for each district and town for school year 2019-2020 and school year 2020-
35 2021. The greater enrollment shall be used to calculate the cost of an opportunity for an adequate
36 education under RSA 198:40-a and relief funding under RSA 198:40-e for the fiscal year ending June
37 30, 2022.

1 II. When determining ADMA for third grade pupils scoring below proficiency on the reading
2 component of the state assessment as required by RSA 198:40-a, II(e) for the fiscal year ending June
3 30, 2022, the commissioner of the department of education shall compare the ADMA for this
4 category of differentiated aid in school year 2018-2019 and school year 2020-2021. The greater
5 ADMA shall be used to calculate the cost of an opportunity for an adequate education under RSA
6 198:40-a, II(e) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

7 52 Conditional Differential Aid Calculation For Pupils Eligible for a Free or Reduced Price Meal;
8 Fiscal Year 2023.

9 I. If, as of any of the dates set forth in RSA 198:41, V, VI, or VII, either (a) the state of New
10 Hampshire is in a declared state of emergency pursuant to RSA 4:45 as it relates to the COVID-19
11 pandemic or (b) the U.S. Department of Agriculture has not rescinded the Child Nutrition Covid-19
12 Waivers enacted in response to the pandemic, or both, then the department of education shall, in
13 consultation with the governor, determine whether the alternative differential aid calculation set
14 forth in paragraph II is required for fiscal year 2023 when making the required estimate or final
15 determination described in RSA 198:41, V, VI, or VII as applicable.

16 II. Upon making a determination that the alternative differential aid calculation applies
17 pursuant to paragraph I, the department of education shall divide each pupil in the ADMA who is
18 eligible for a free or reduced price meal by the average daily member in attendance (ADMA), defined
19 in RSA 198:38, for each district and town for school year 2019-2020. The percentage shall be applied
20 to the ADMA for school year 2021-2022 to establish a new calculation of ADMA for who is eligible for
21 a free or reduced price meal. The greater of the ADMA of pupils who are eligible for a free or
22 reduced price meal for school year 2021-2022 and the new calculation based on the 2019-2020 school
23 year percentage shall be used to calculate the differential aid under RSA 198:40-a, II(b) and relief
24 aid under RSA 198:40-e.

25 53 New Section; Relief Funding. Amend RSA 198 by inserting after section 40-d the following
26 new section:

27 198:40-e Relief Funding.

28 I. In a school district in which 48 percent or more of the ADMA is eligible to receive a free or
29 reduced-priced meal, an additional \$600 for each pupil in the ADMA who is eligible for a free or
30 reduced-priced meal.

31 II. In a school district in which at least 12 percent but less than 48 percent of the ADMA is
32 eligible to receive a free or reduced-priced meal, an amount equal to \$150 plus \$0.1250 for each 0.01
33 percent that its free or reduced-priced meal eligibility rate exceeds 12 percent, for each pupil in the
34 ADMA who is eligible for a free or reduced-priced meal.

35 III. A school district in which less than 12 percent of the ADMA is eligible to receive a free or
36 reduced-priced meal shall receive no additional aid under this section.

1 IV. The department of education shall adjust aid to each district calculated under this
2 section to the statewide total of \$17,500,000. Adjustments under this paragraph shall be made on a
3 pro-rata basis.

4 54 Additional Aid to Education. The governing body of a school district may call a special
5 meeting pursuant to RSA 197:3-a to determine how any adjustment in education aid shall be
6 budgeted.

7 55 Transfer; Education Trust Fund. At the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, the
8 state treasurer shall transfer the sum of \$35,000,000 from the education trust fund surplus to a
9 restricted account under the department of education for purposes of providing relief funding
10 pursuant to RSA 198:40-e for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

11 56 Effective Date. Section 55 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

12 57 New Subparagraph. Amend RSA 198:41, I by inserting after subparagraph (c) the following
13 new subparagraph:

14 (d) Add the municipality's additional aid for relief funding pursuant to RSA 198:40-e.

15 58 Department of Education; State Maintenance of Equity; Biennium Ending June 30, 2023.

16 I. For the biennium ending June, 30, 2023, the department of education shall determine, in
17 consultation with the governor, whether the state of New Hampshire is compliant with the state
18 maintenance of equity requirements of Section 2004(b) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. If
19 it is determined that the high-need and highest poverty local educational agencies as referenced in
20 Section 2004(b) and defined in Section 2004(d) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 have
21 experienced a greater reduction in state aid per pupil than the state maintenance of equity
22 requirements permit under the American Rescue Plan Act for either fiscal year 2022 or 2023, the
23 department of education, with the approval of the fiscal committee of the general court, shall
24 increase state aid to such agencies to bring the state into compliance.

25 II. If state aid is increased pursuant to paragraph I to achieve compliance with Section
26 2004(b) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the department of education shall determine if the
27 increase brings the state into compliance by eliminating an overall per-pupil reduction in state
28 funds, in which case the department shall issue the state aid on a prorated basis to the local
29 educational agency or agencies needing an increase in state aid in order to achieve compliance.

30 III. Any state aid distributed under this section shall be an education grant in addition to
31 the state grant calculated under RSA 198:41 and shall be distributed to school districts accordingly.
32 Depending on how the United States Department of Education allows states to define "pupil" as it
33 relates to determining state aid per pupil under Section 2004(b) of the American Rescue Plan Act of
34 2021, the department of education may experience delays in accurately collecting pupil data to meet
35 the definition as defined by the United States Department of Education, thereby delaying the
36 calculation of the grant award. If such delay occurs, the department of education may issue the

1 grants described in this section up to 120 days after the end of the applicable fiscal year being
2 assessed for compliance with federal law.

3 IV. In seeking fiscal committee approval and establishing grants under this section, the
4 department of education may calculate the grants in manner that increases the likelihood of
5 compliance with Section 2004(b) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 while utilizing the
6 minimum amount of state resources. The department of education may also make minor rounding
7 adjustments to the grant awards under the condition all rounding adjustments are applied in a
8 consistent and uniform manner.

9 V. In the event grants are required to be disbursed to districts, the commissioner of
10 education may request the fiscal committee of the general court to authorize additional funding.
11 Funds requested and approved shall be a charge to the education trust fund. Such warrants for
12 payment shall be issued regardless of the balance of funds available in the education trust fund. If
13 the balance in the education trust fund, after the issuance of any such warrant, is less than zero, the
14 comptroller shall transfer sufficient funds from the general fund to eliminate such deficit. The
15 commissioner of the department of administrative services shall inform the fiscal committee and the
16 governor and council of such balance. This reporting shall not in any way prohibit or delay the
17 distribution of any grant or transfer of funds authorized under this chapter.

18 59 Appropriation; Department of Education. For the biennium ending June 30, 2023, the sum of
19 \$3,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the department of education for the purpose of funding
20 operating costs for a state student data collection and reporting system. Said appropriation shall be
21 a charge against the education trust fund.

22 60 Education Trust Fund Created and Invested. Amend RSA 198:39, I to read as follows:

23 I. The state treasurer shall establish an education trust fund in the treasury. Moneys in
24 such fund shall not be used for any purpose other than to distribute adequate education grants to
25 municipalities, school districts and to approved charter schools pursuant to RSA 198:42, to provide
26 low and moderate income homeowners property tax relief under RSA 198:56-198:61, **to distribute**
27 **school building aid to school districts and approved chartered public schools pursuant to**
28 **RSA 198:15-b, to distribute tuition and transportation funds to school districts for students**
29 **attending career and technical education programs pursuant to RSA 188-E:9, to distribute**
30 **special education aid to school districts pursuant to RSA 186-C:18, to fund department of**
31 **education operating costs for a state student data collection and reporting system, and to**
32 fund kindergarten programs as may be determined by the general court. The state treasurer shall
33 deposit into this fund immediately upon receipt:

34 (a) Funds certified to the state treasurer by the commissioner of revenue administration
35 pursuant to RSA 77-A:20-a, relative to business profits taxes.

36 (b) Funds certified to the state treasurer by the commissioner of revenue administration
37 pursuant to RSA 77-E:14, relative to business enterprise tax.

1 (c) Funds collected and paid over to the state treasurer by the commissioner of revenue
2 administration pursuant to RSA 78-A:26, III relative to the tax on motor vehicle rentals.

3 (d) Funds collected and paid over to the state treasurer by the department of revenue
4 administration pursuant to RSA 78:24, relative to tobacco taxes.

5 (e) Funds certified to the state treasurer by the commissioner of revenue administration
6 pursuant to RSA 78-B:13, relative to real estate transfer taxes.

7 (f) Funds collected and paid over to the state treasurer by the department of revenue
8 administration pursuant to RSA 83-F:7, I, relative to the utility property tax.

9 (g) [Repealed.]

10 (h) All moneys due the fund in accordance with RSA 284:21-j, relative to sweepstakes
11 and the lottery.

12 (i) Tobacco settlement funds in the amount of \$40,000,000 ~~[annually]~~ or, *for any year*
13 *in which the total tobacco settlement funds received by the state is less than \$40,000,000,*
14 *the total amount of tobacco settlement funds received by the state.*

15 (j) The school portion of any revenue sharing funds distributed pursuant to RSA 31-A:4
16 which were apportioned to school districts in the property tax rate calculations in 1998.

17 (k) Funds collected and paid over to the state treasurer by the lottery commission
18 pursuant to RSA 284:44, RSA 284:47, and RSA 287-1.

19 (l) Any other moneys appropriated from the general fund.

20 61 Transfer; Education Trust Fund. The comptroller shall transfer the following amounts from
21 the education trust fund to the public school infrastructure fund established in RSA 198:15-y:
22 \$1,000,000 on July 1, 2021 and \$1,000,000 on July 1, 2022.

23 62 Public School Infrastructure Fund. Amend RSA 198:15-y to read as follows:

24 198:15-y Public School-Infrastructure Fund.

25 I. The general court recognizes that there is a need to provide funding for infrastructure
26 projects for public elementary and secondary schools. Therefore, it is the intent of this chapter to
27 designate certain surplus funds in the 2016-2017 biennial budget to provide grants to fund select
28 school infrastructure projects in accordance with this chapter.

29 II. There is hereby established in the office of the state treasurer the public school
30 infrastructure fund which shall be kept distinct and separate from all other funds and which shall be
31 administered by the department of education. After transferring sufficient funds to the revenue
32 stabilization reserve account to bring the balance of that account to \$100,000,000, the state treasurer
33 shall transfer the remainder of the general fund surplus for fiscal year 2017, as determined by the
34 official audit performed pursuant to RSA 21-I:8, II(a), to the fund. Any earnings on fund moneys
35 shall be added to the fund. All moneys in the fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated.
36 The department of education may retain up to 3 percent of the total annual appropriation of the
37 public school infrastructure fund on or after July 1, 2019, to be used to administer the public school

1 infrastructure program. ~~[Any unexpended or unencumbered balance as of June 30, 2021 shall be~~
2 ~~transferred to the general fund.]~~

3 III. The governor, in consultation with the public school infrastructure commission, may
4 authorize fund expenditures with approval of the fiscal committee of the general court and the
5 executive council. Funds may be expended for the following purposes:

6 (a) A school building or infrastructure proposal in which the condition of such school
7 building or portion thereof constitutes a clear and imminent danger to the life or safety of occupants
8 or other persons and requires remediation as soon as practicable.

9 (b) A school building or infrastructure proposal in which a structural deficiency in the
10 function or operation of a school building or portion thereof presents a substantial risk to the life or
11 safety of the occupants or other persons and is more than a technical violation of the fire code, and
12 requires remediation as soon as practicable.

13 (c) Support of fiber optic connections for schools to enhance and improve reliance on
14 Internet technology tools, provided matching funds are available.

15 (d) Funding for the department of safety, division of homeland security and emergency
16 management's school emergency readiness program to improve security in public schools, after the
17 completion of a security assessment, and in consultation with municipal officials.

18 (e) A school building or infrastructure proposal which is necessary to comply with
19 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations.

20 (f) *Energy efficient school buses or other vehicles used for transportation of*
21 *students.*

22 (g) Other school building or infrastructure needs the governor, in consultation with the
23 public school infrastructure commission, may identify, except for school building aid projects that are
24 otherwise prohibited by law.

25 ~~IV. *In order for a school to be eligible for a grant from the public school*~~
26 ~~*infrastructure fund, the public school infrastructure commission in consultation with the*~~
27 ~~*department of education shall determine that the school has a need unmet by federal*~~
28 ~~*stimulus funds for the project.*~~

29 63 Repeal. 2017, 156:72, relative to the prospective repeal of the public school infrastructure
30 fund and commission, is repealed.

31 64 Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food; Integrated Pest Management Program.
32 Amend RSA 430:50, II to read as follows:

33 II. There is established a nonlapsing fund to be known as the integrated pest management
34 fund. Twenty-five percent of the pesticide registration fees collected under RSA 430:38, III shall be
35 deposited in the fund. The fund shall only be used to support the purposes of the integrated pest
36 management program *and the division of pesticide control*. The state treasurer may invest
37 moneys in the fund as provided by law and all interest received on such investment shall be credited

1 to the fund. The commissioner shall be authorized to accept grants, gifts, and donations from any
2 public or private sources for deposit in the fund.

3 65 Department of Business and Economic Affairs; New Hampshire Economic Development
4 Fund. Amend RSA 12-O:21 to read as follows:

5 12-O:21 New Hampshire Economic Development Fund.

6 I. There is hereby established the New Hampshire economic development fund which shall
7 be administered by the commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs. Said fund
8 shall be for the purpose of providing funds for grants, loans and other economic development
9 initiatives which shall be generally considered to be beneficial to the state's overall economy as
10 provided for in paragraph II.

11 II. Said fund shall be distributed or expended by the commissioner with prior approval of
12 the fiscal committee of general court and the governor and council for any of the following purposes:

- 13 (a) Business financing and expansion initiatives.
14 (b) ~~[Job]~~ **Workforce recruitment** retention and creation.
15 (c) International trade.
16 (d) Research and development activities.
17 (e) Other projects or programs recognized as being beneficial to business activity in New

18 Hampshire.

19 III. To maximize the economic impact of expenditures from this fund, and to leverage
20 additional funding from other sources, the commissioner may contract with such organizations as,
21 but not limited to, the following:

- 22 (a) ~~[New Hampshire Business Development Corporation]~~ **Chambers of commerce.**
23 (b) ~~[Small Business Investment Corporation]~~ **Regional economic development or**
24 **planning organizations.**
25 (c) Innovation Research Center.
26 (d) Small Business Development Center.

27 IV. All moneys **appropriated to the fund as well as moneys** returned to the department
28 as a result of contracts between the commissioner and any other party as authorized shall be
29 redeposited into the New Hampshire economic development fund. In addition, the department may
30 accept gifts, grants, donations or other moneys for the purposes of this section. Said moneys shall be
31 deposited into the New Hampshire economic development fund.

32 66 New Section; Department of Business and Economic Affairs; Director of Intergovernmental
33 Affairs. Amend RSA 12-O by inserting after section 5 the following new section:

34 12-O:5-a Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

35 I. There is established in the office of the commissioner the unclassified position of director
36 of intergovernmental affairs. The director shall be qualified to hold that position by reason of

1 education and experience and shall perform such duties as the commissioner from time to time may
2 authorize.

3 II. The commissioner shall nominate for appointment by the governor, with the consent of
4 the council, this unclassified director of intergovernmental affairs who shall serve for a term of 4
5 years.

6 III. The salary of the director of intergovernmental affairs shall be determined after
7 assessment and review of the appropriate temporary letter grade allocation in RSA 94:1-a, I(b) for
8 the position which shall be conducted pursuant to RSA 94:1-d and RSA 14:14-c.

9 IV. Upon completion of the appointment of the first director of intergovernmental affairs,
10 position number 40049 shall be abolished to allow for the transition of this classified position with
11 its available appropriations into the unclassified position of director of intergovernmental affairs.
12 Funding shall be transferred into a new expenditure class number 11 within accounting unit 03-22-
13 22-220010-2007.

14 67 Repeal. RSA 12-O:11-a, relative to the bureau of film and digital media, is repealed.

15 68 Reference Deleted. Department of Business and Economic Affairs. Amend RSA 12-O:2, I
16 to read as follows:

17 I. There shall be a department of business and economic affairs under the executive
18 direction of a commissioner of business and economic affairs, consisting of a division of economic
19 development which shall include but not be limited to a bureau of workforce development, and a
20 division of travel and tourism development which shall include but not be limited to a bureau of
21 visitor service [~~and a bureau of film and digital media~~]. The department's purpose shall be to ensure
22 the efficient coordinated function of the department, economic development policies of the state of
23 New Hampshire and the collaborative participation of all related state departments, agencies, and
24 authorities.

25 69 Distribution of Meals and Rooms Tax; Division of Travel and Tourism Development. The
26 provisions of RSA 12-O:11-b, crediting a portion of meals and rooms tax revenue to the division of
27 travel and tourism development, are hereby suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

28 70 Department of Corrections; Transfer Authority. The following classes within the department
29 of corrections shall be exempt from the transfer restrictions in RSA 9:17-a, 9:17-c, classes 10-
30 personal services-perm classified, 11-personal services unclassified, 12-personal services-
31 unclassified, 18-overtime, 19-holiday pay, 50-personal service-temp/appointed and 60-benefits. The
32 department is authorized to transfer funding in these classes within and amongst all accounting
33 units provided that any transfer of \$100,000 or more shall require prior approval of the fiscal
34 committee of the general court and governor and council. The provisions in this paragraph shall
35 remain in effect for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

36 71 Equipment Purchases. Amend RSA 622:28-a, V to read as follows:

1 V. All purchases of materials, supplies, and equipment into the inventory account shall be
2 made in accordance with the provisions of RSA 21-I:11 and any equipment purchase in excess of
3 ~~[\$5,000]~~ ***the approval threshold for contracts set by the governor and council manual of***
4 ***procedures***, and made under the provisions of this section, shall require the prior approval of both
5 the fiscal committee of the general court and the governor and council.

6 72 Department of Environmental Services; Appropriation Extended. Amend 2019, 346:304, I to
7 read as follows:

8 I. The sum of \$6,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is hereby appropriated to
9 the department of environmental services for the purpose of studying, investigating, and testing for
10 contamination caused by perfluorinated chemicals, and the preliminary design for a treatment
11 system for such contamination. This appropriation shall not lapse until June 30, ~~[2021]~~ **2023**. Such
12 appropriation shall be a charge against the drinking water and groundwater trust fund established
13 in RSA 6-D:1.

14 73 Effective Date. Section 72 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

15 74 State Aid Grants; Department of Environmental Services.

16 I. Notwithstanding RSA 486, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, no state aid grants
17 shall be made for any new infrastructure projects that would have otherwise been eligible for state
18 aid grants under RSA 486, RSA 486-A, or RSA 149-M, except that infrastructure projects that have
19 achieved substantial completion by December 31, 2019, shall be eligible for state aid grants, subject
20 to availability of funding and in accordance with other provisions of current law. Nothing in this
21 section shall affect the provision of the future water supply land protection grants under RSA 486-A
22 if funding is available for such purposes.

23 II. The sum of \$15,576,939 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 is hereby appropriated to
24 the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding payments on existing grants.
25 The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not
26 otherwise appropriated. Said appropriation shall not lapse until June 30, 2023.

27 75 Effective Date. Section 74 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

28 76 Office of Professional Licensure and Certification; Renaming and Reorganizing of Divisions.
29 Amend RSA 310-A:1-a to read as follows:

30 310-A:1-a Office of Professional Licensure and Certification; Division of ~~[Technical Professions]~~
31 ***Licensing and Board Administration*** and Division of ~~[Health Professions]~~ ***Enforcement***
32 Established. There shall be an office of professional licensure and certification that shall consist of
33 the division of ~~[technical professions]~~ ***licensing and board administration*** and the division of
34 ~~[health professions]~~ ***enforcement***.

35 I. The ~~[division of technical professions]~~ ***office of professional licensure and***
36 ***certification*** shall consist of each of the boards, councils, and commissions of:

37 (a) Professional engineers under RSA 310-A:3.

- 1 (b) Architects under RSA 310-A:29.
- 2 (c) Land surveyors under RSA 310-A:55.
- 3 (d) Natural scientists under RSA 310-A:81.
- 4 (e) Foresters under RSA 310-A:100.
- 5 (f) Professional geologists under RSA 310-A:120.
- 6 (g) Landscape architects under RSA 310-A:142.
- 7 (h) Court reporters under RSA 310-A:163.
- 8 (i) Home inspectors under RSA 310-A:186.
- 9 (j) Accountants under RSA 309-B:4.
- 10 (k) Manufactured housing installers under RSA 205-D:2.
- 11 (l) Real estate appraisers under RSA 310-B:4.
- 12 (m) Electricians under RSA 319-C:4.
- 13 (n) Board of manufactured housing under RSA 205-A:25.
- 14 (o) Guardians ad litem under RSA 490-C:1.
- 15 (p) Family mediators under RSA 328-C:4.
- 16 (q) Real estate commission under RSA 331-A:5.
- 17 (r) Septic system evaluators under RSA 310-A:206.

18 ~~[H. The division of health professions shall consist of each of the boards, councils,~~
19 ~~commissions, and practices of:~~

- 20 ~~(a)~~ (s) Hearing care providers under RSA [137-F:3] **326-F and RSA 328-F.**
- 21 ~~(b)~~ (t) Examiners of nursing-home administrators under RSA 151-A:3.
- 22 ~~(c)~~ (u) Podiatry under RSA 315:1.
- 23 ~~(d)~~ (v) Chiropractic examiners under RSA 316-A:2.
- 24 ~~(e)~~ (w) Dental examiners under RSA 317-A:2.
- 25 ~~(f)~~ (x) Registration of funeral directors and embalmers under RSA 325:2.
- 26 ~~(g)~~ (y) Midwifery council under RSA 326-D:3.
- 27 ~~(h)~~ (z) Licensed dietitians under RSA 326-H:7.
- 28 ~~(i)~~ (aa) Optometry under RSA 327:2.
- 29 ~~(j)~~ (bb) Naturopathic board of examiners under RSA 328-E:7.
- 30 ~~(k)~~ (cc) Licensed allied health professionals under RSA 328-F:3.
- 31 ~~(l)~~ (dd) Acupuncture licensing under RSA 328-G:3.
- 32 ~~(m)~~ (ee) Psychologists under RSA 329-B:3.
- 33 ~~(n)~~ (ff) Mental health practice under RSA 330-A:3.
- 34 ~~(o)~~ (gg) Licensing for alcohol and other drug use professionals under RSA 330-C:3.
- 35 ~~(p)~~ (hh) Electrologists under RSA 314:2-a.
- 36 ~~(q)~~ (ii) Body art practitioners under RSA 314-A.
- 37 ~~(r)~~ (jj) Ophthalmic dispensers under RSA 327-A:2.

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1 ~~[(k)]~~ **(kk)** Reflexology, structural integrators, and Asian bodywork therapists under RSA
2 328-H:6.

3 ~~[(l)]~~ **(ll)** Massage therapists under RSA 328-B:5.

4 ~~[(m)]~~ **(mm)** Medicine under RSA 329:2.

5 ~~[(n)]~~ **(nn)** Nursing under RSA 326-B:3 and nursing assistant registry under RSA 326-
6 B:26.

7 ~~[(o)]~~ **(oo)** Pharmacy under RSA 318:2.

8 ~~[(p)]~~ **(pp)** Barbering, cosmetology, and esthetics under RSA 313-A:2.

9 ~~[(q)]~~ **(qq)** Medical technicians under RSA 328-I:2.

10 ~~[(r)]~~ **(rr)** Medical imaging and radiation therapists under RSA 328-J:1.

11 **(ss) Board of veterinary medicine under RSA 332-B.**

12 **(tt) Mechanical licensing board under RSA 153:27-a.**

13 ~~[(H)]~~ **II.** Administrative rules adopted pursuant to RSA 541-A governing the licensing
14 boards, commissions, and councils set forth in ~~[paragraphs I and II]~~ **paragraph I** shall remain in
15 effect until amended, expired, or repealed.

16 77 Temporary Licensing Process; Reference Change. Amend RSA 310-A:1-f, I to read as follows:

17 I. Health care professionals shall ~~be defined as~~ **include** those individuals licensed by the
18 boards, councils, and commissions within the ~~[division of health professions]~~ **office of professional**
19 **licensure and certification** as set forth in RSA 310-A:1-a, ~~[I, with the exception of those licensed~~
20 ~~pursuant to RSA 314, RSA 314-A, RSA 313, RSA 328-B, and RSA 328-H]~~ **who perform specified**
21 **medical or ancillary services within the scope of his or her authority, as determined by the**
22 **executive director.**

23 78 Telemedicine; Reference Change. Amend RSA 310-A:1-g, IV to read as follows:

24 IV. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an out-of-state healthcare
25 professional providing services by means of telemedicine or telehealth shall be required to be
26 licensed, certified, or registered by the appropriate licensing board within the ~~[division of health~~
27 ~~professions]~~ **office of professional licensure and certification.** This paragraph shall not apply to
28 out-of-state physicians who provide consultation services pursuant to RSA 329:21, II.

29 79 Office of Professional Licensure and Certification; Division Directors; Unclassified Positions
30 Established. Amend RSA 310-A:1-c to read as follows:

31 310-A:1-c Division Directors; **Pharmacy Compliance Investigators.**

32 I. There is established in the office of professional licensure and certification 2 unclassified
33 directors: The director of the division of ~~[technical professions]~~ **licensing and board**
34 **administration** and director of the division of ~~[health professions]~~ **enforcement.** Each director
35 shall be qualified to hold that position by reason of education and experience and shall perform such
36 duties as the executive director from time to time may authorize.

1 II. The executive director shall nominate for appointment by the governor, with the consent
2 of the council, each unclassified division director, each of whom shall serve for a term of 4 years.

3 **III. There are established in the office of professional licensure and certification**
4 **the unclassified position of chief pharmacy compliance investigator and 2 unclassified**
5 **pharmacy investigator positions. Each investigator shall be qualified for the position by**
6 **reason of education and experience, shall be nominated by the executive director for**
7 **appointment by the governor and council, and shall serve at the pleasure of the executive**
8 **director. The chief pharmacy compliance investigator shall oversee pharmacy compliance**
9 **and investigations, shall supervise the pharmacy compliance investigators, and shall**
10 **perform such duties as the executive director from time to time may authorize.**

11 80 Office of Professional Licensure and Certification; Classified Positions Abolished; Funding
12 Transferred to Unclassified Positions.

13 I. Upon the appointment of a chief pharmacy compliance investigator and 2 pharmacy
14 investigators to the office of professional licensure and certification, the following positions shall be
15 abolished to allow for the transition of these classified positions with their available appropriations
16 into the unclassified positions established in RSA 310-A:1-c, III. Funding shall be transferred into
17 expenditure class 011, within accounting unit 01-21-21-216010-33020000. The incumbents in the
18 abolished classified positions shall be offered the opportunity to seek the executive director's
19 nomination for the unclassified positions:

20 (a) Pharmacy Board Compliance Investigator, 22008.

21 (b) Pharmacy Board Compliance Investigator, 14337.

22 (c) Program Specialist I/Assistant Pharmacy Inspector, 17094.

23 II. The salary of the unclassified positions shall be determined after assessment and review
24 of the appropriate temporary letter grade allocation in RSA 94:1-a, I(b) for the positions which shall
25 be conducted pursuant to RSA 94:1-d and RSA 14:14-c.

26 81 Office of Professional Licensure and Certification; Fees. Amend RSA 310-A:1-e, I to read as
27 follows:

28 I.(a) The executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification shall
29 assess annual or biennial license, certification, and renewal fees, as well as any necessary
30 administrative fees for each professional regulatory board, council, or commission administered by
31 the office. **Such fees shall be sufficient to produce estimated revenues up to 125 percent of**
32 **the total operating expenses for the office, as determined by averaging the operating**
33 **expenses for the office for the previous 2 fiscal years.**

34 (b) There is hereby established the office of professional licensure and certification fund
35 into which the fees collected under subparagraph (a) shall be deposited. After paying all costs and
36 salaries associated with the office, moneys in this fund shall lapse to the general fund at the close of
37 each ~~fiscal year~~ **biennium**.

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1 82 Mechanical Licensing Board; Transfer to Office of Professional Licensure and Certification.
2 Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 153:27-a to read as follows:

3 153:27-a Mechanical Licensing Board. There is hereby established as a unit within the ~~[division~~
4 ~~of fire safety a mechanical licensing board]~~ **office of professional licensure and certification.**
5 The term of office for the members appointed to the board shall be 3 years and until a successor is
6 appointed. The initial appointed members of the board shall serve staggered terms. Vacancies shall
7 be filled in the same manner and for the unexpired terms. No member of the board shall be
8 appointed to more than 2 consecutive terms. A member of the board shall serve as the board
9 secretary.

10 83 Appropriation; Internet Crimes Against Children Fund. The sum of \$250,000 for the fiscal
11 year ending June 30, 2022, and the sum of \$250,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, are
12 hereby appropriated to the New Hampshire Internet crimes against children fund established in
13 RSA 21-M:17. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the
14 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

15 84 Attorney/Administrator. Amend RSA 359-P:4 to read as follows:

16 359-P:4 Attorney/Administrator. The director shall ~~[hire/appoint a private]~~ **hire an** attorney or
17 administrator who shall ~~[collect gifts and contributions,]~~ review applications for assistance
18 submitted pursuant to this chapter, make awards of assistance in accordance with the procedures of
19 this chapter, and report annually to the director commencing on February 1, ~~[2017]~~ **2022** and each
20 February 1 thereafter. The director shall negotiate the attorney's or administrator's ~~[compensation~~
21 ~~which in any calendar year shall be no more than 10 percent of any private sector contributions~~
22 ~~received in that calendar year]~~ **salary and benefit level in accordance with similar levels**
23 **within the department.**

24 85 Appropriation; FRM Victims' Contribution Recovery Fund. For the purpose of awarding
25 recovery assistance to victims of the FRM fraud, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$5,000,000
26 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and the sum of \$5,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June
27 30, 2023, to the FRM victims' contribution recovery fund established in RSA 359-P:2. The governor
28 is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise
29 appropriated.

30 86 Repeal of the Prospective Repeal of FRM Fund. 2016, 293:6, relative to the July 1, 2023
31 repeal of the FRM victims' contribution recovery fund in RSA 359-P:2, is repealed.

32 87 Revenue Stabilization Account; Cap. Amend RSA 9:13-e, V to read as follows:

33 V. If, after the requirements of paragraphs II-IV have been met and the balance remaining
34 in the revenue stabilization reserve account is in excess of an amount equal to 10 percent of the
35 actual general fund unrestricted revenues for the most recently completed fiscal ~~[year]~~ **biennium**,
36 then such excess, less any amounts deposited pursuant to RSA 7:6-e, shall be transferred, without
37 further action, to the general fund surplus account.

1 88 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services. The sums of \$12,401,552 in
2 fiscal year 2022 and \$13,031,765 in fiscal year 2023 are hereby appropriated to the department of
3 health and human services for the purpose of funding one-time maintenance of the legacy Medicaid
4 management information system as the department transitions to new modular information
5 technology systems. The department may accept and expend matching federal funds without prior
6 approval of the fiscal committee. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of
7 any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

8 89 Rate. Amend RSA 77:1 to read as follows:

9 77:1 Rate.

10 I. The annual tax upon incomes shall be levied at the rate of 5 percent ~~for all taxable~~
11 ~~periods ending before December 31, 2023.~~

12 II. ~~The annual tax upon incomes shall be levied at the rate of 4 percent for all~~
13 ~~taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2023.~~

14 III. ~~The annual tax upon incomes shall be levied at the rate of 3 percent for all~~
15 ~~taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2024.~~

16 IV. ~~The annual tax upon incomes shall be levied at the rate of 2 percent for all~~
17 ~~taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2025.~~

18 V. ~~The annual tax upon incomes shall be levied at the rate of 1 percent for all~~
19 ~~taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2026.~~

20 90 Reference to Interest and Dividends Tax Deleted; 2027. Amend RSA 14-B:8, III(q) to read as
21 follows:

22 (q) ~~New Hampshire taxes, specifying if business profits tax[~~]~~ or business enterprise~~
23 ~~tax[~~]~~ or interest and dividends tax].~~

24 91 Reference to Interest and Dividends Tax Deleted; 2027. Amend RSA 15-A:5, I(d)(17) to read
25 as follows:

26 (17) ~~New Hampshire taxes, specifying if business profits tax[~~]~~ or business~~
27 ~~enterprise tax[~~]~~ or interest and dividends tax].~~

28 92 Reference to Interest and Dividends Tax Deleted; 2027. Amend RSA 21-J:31 to read as
29 follows:

30 21-J:31 Penalty for Failure to File. Any taxpayer who fails to file a return when due, unless an
31 extension has been granted by the department, shall pay a penalty equal to 5 percent of the amount
32 of the tax due or \$10, whichever is greater, for each month or part of a month during which the
33 return remains unfiled. The total amount of any penalty shall not, however, exceed 25 percent of
34 the amount of the tax due or \$50, whichever is greater. This penalty shall not be applied in any
35 case in which a return is filed within the extended filing period as provided in ~~[RSA 77:18-b,]~~
36 RSA 77-A:9, RSA 77-E:8, RSA 83-C:6, RSA 83-E:5, RSA 84-A:7, or RSA 84-C:7, or the failure to file
37 was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect of the taxpayer. The amount of the penalty is

1 determined by applying the percentages specified to the net amount of any tax due after crediting
2 any timely payments made through estimating or other means.

3 93 Reference to Interest and Dividends Tax Deleted; 2027. Amend RSA 21-J:33-a, I to read as
4 follows:

5 I. If there is a substantial understatement of tax imposed under ~~[RSA 77,]~~ RSA 77-A,
6 RSA 77-E, RSA 78-A, RSA 78-C, RSA 82-A, RSA 83-C, RSA 83-E, or RSA 84-A for any taxable
7 period, there shall be added to the tax an amount equal to 25 percent of the amount of any
8 underpayment attributable to such understatement.

9 94 Reference to Interest and Dividends Tax Deleted; 2027. Amend RSA 21-J:46, III to read as
10 follows:

11 III. This section shall apply only to tax returns and associated payments under ~~[RSA 77,]~~
12 RSA 77-A~~[,]~~ and RSA 77-E.

13 95 References to Interest and Dividends Tax Deleted; 2027. Amend RSA 71-C:4, I and II to
14 read as follows:

15 I. On or before December 15 of every fiscal year the commissioner of the department of
16 revenue administration shall certify in a report to the general court and the governor an analysis of
17 each of the past fiscal year's tax expenditures as identified in RSA 71-C:2, and other credits allowed
18 under ~~[RSA 77,]~~ RSA 77-A, RSA 77-E, ~~RSA 77-G,~~ RSA 78, RSA 78-A, 78-B, RSA 82-A, RSA 83-E,
19 RSA 84-A, RSA 84-C, and RSA 400-A.

20 II. The report shall be divided into the following parts:

21 (a) Tax expenditures as determined by the joint committee on tax expenditure review
22 under RSA 71-C:3;

23 (b) Potential liabilities against the state's revenues, specifically:

24 (1) ~~Other credits allowed under [RSA 77,]~~ RSA 77-A, RSA 77-E, ~~RSA 77-G,~~ RSA 78,
25 RSA 78-A, ~~RSA 78-B,~~ RSA 82, RSA 82-A, RSA 83-E, RSA 84-A, RSA 84-C, and RSA 400-A against
26 the business profits tax imposed by RSA 77-A; and

27 (2) ~~Credit carryovers from overpaid taxes.~~

28 96 Education Tax Credit Scholarship Organizations; 2027. Amend RSA 77-G:3 to read as
29 follows:

30 77-G:3 Contributions to Scholarship Organizations. For each contribution made to a
31 scholarship organization, a business organization, business enterprise, or individual may claim a
32 credit equal to 85 percent of the contribution against the business profits tax due pursuant to RSA
33 77-A, against the business enterprise tax due pursuant to RSA 77-E, ~~against the tax on interest and~~
34 ~~dividends under RSA 77,]~~ or apportioned against each provided the total credit granted shall not
35 exceed the maximum education tax credit allowed. Credits provided under this chapter shall not be
36 deemed taxes paid for the purposes of RSA 77-A:5, X. The department of revenue administration
37 shall not grant the credit without a scholarship receipt. No business organization, business

1 enterprise, or individual shall direct, assign, or restrict any contribution to a scholarship
2 organization for the use of a particular student or nonpublic school. No business organization,
3 business enterprise, or individual shall receive more than 10 percent of the aggregate amount of tax
4 credits permitted in RSA 77-G:4.

5 97 Education Tax Credit Scholarship Organizations; 2027. Amend RSA 77-G:5, I, (i)(2) to read
6 as follows:

7 (2) Not knowingly award a scholarship to any lineal descendant or equivalent step-
8 person of any proprietor, partner, or member of any business organization, business enterprise, or
9 individual making a contribution to a scholarship organization and claiming a credit against the
10 business profits tax~~]~~ *or* business enterprise tax, ~~[or tax on interest and dividends,]~~ nor any lineal
11 descendant or equivalent step-person of any officer, director, or owner of more than a 5 percent
12 interest in any business organization, business enterprise, or individual making a contribution to a
13 scholarship organization and claiming a credit against the business profits tax~~]~~ *or* business
14 enterprise tax, ~~[or tax on interest and dividends,]~~ nor any employee who is among the highest-paid
15 20 percent of paid employees in any business organization, business enterprise, or individual making
16 a contribution to a scholarship organization and claiming a credit against the business profits tax~~]~~
17 *or* business enterprise tax~~, [or tax on interest and dividends]~~.

18 98 Issuance of Electric Rate Reduction Bonds; 2027. Amend RSA 369-B:5, VI to read as follows:

19 VI. The exercise of the powers granted by this chapter shall be in all respects for the benefit
20 of the people of this state, for the increase of their commerce, welfare, and prosperity, and as the
21 exercise of such powers shall constitute the performance of an essential public function, neither any
22 electric utility, any affiliate of any electric utility, any financing entity, nor any collection or other
23 agent of any of the foregoing shall be required to pay any taxes or assessments upon or in respect of
24 any revenues or property received, acquired, transferred, or used by any electric utility, any affiliate
25 of any electric utility, any financing entity, or any collection or other agent of any of the foregoing
26 under the provisions of this chapter or upon or in respect of the income therefrom, and any rate
27 reduction bonds shall be treated as notes or bonds of a political subdivision of the state ~~[for purposes~~
28 ~~of RSA 77]~~.

29 99 Repeals; Interest and Dividends Taxation; 2027. The following are repealed:

30 I. RSA 21-J:45, I(c), relative to reports on status of requested interest and dividends tax
31 refunds.

32 II. RSA 77, relative to taxation of incomes.

33 III. RSA 77-A:4-c, II(c), relative to the duty of a committee to study the taxation of
34 distributions received by investment organizations under the interest and dividends tax.

35 IV. RSA 77-A:4, I, relative to an adjustment to the business profits tax for taxes under
36 RSA 77.

1 V. RSA 195-H:10, relative to exemption from RSA 77 for income and distributions from
2 qualified tuition programs.

3 VI. RSA 195-K:4, relative to exemption from RSA 77 for income and distributions in the
4 ABLE savings account program.

5 VII. RSA 261:52-a, relative to notice that the interest and dividends tax may be due.

6 VIII. RSA 391:3, relative to the taxation of common trust funds under RSA 77.

7 100 Returns for Interest and Dividends Taxes; 2027. All persons who are liable for a tax under
8 RSA 77 as of December 31, 2026, who thereafter are no longer liable for a tax under RSA 77 because
9 of the passage of this act shall make a return of such taxes due the commissioner of revenue
10 administration in such manner and on such forms as the commissioner shall prescribe in rules
11 adopted under RSA 541-A. The administrative provisions of RSA 77 shall remain in effect to permit
12 the audit and collection of taxes upon income taxable under RSA 77 which is received by persons
13 subject to taxation under that chapter through December 31, 2026, and to permit the distribution of
14 that revenue. Persons who are liable for a tax under RSA 77 who do not report the payment of
15 federal income taxes on a calendar year basis are entitled to such proportion of the exemptions
16 allowed in RSA 77 as the reporting period bears to their taxable year.

17 101 Application; Repeal of RSA 77. Paragraph II of section 99 shall apply to taxable periods
18 beginning after December 31, 2026.

19 102 Effective Date.

20 I. Section 89 this act shall take effect January 1, 2022.

21 II. Sections 90-100 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

22 103 Imposition of Tax. Amend RSA 78-A:6 to read as follows:

23 78-A:6 Imposition of Tax.

24 I. A tax of ~~[9]~~ 8.5 percent of the rent is imposed upon each occupancy.

25 II. A tax is imposed on taxable meals based upon the charge therefor as follows:

26 (a) Four cents for a charge between \$.36 and \$.37 inclusive;

27 (b) Five cents for a charge between \$.38 and \$.50 inclusive;

28 (c) Six cents for a charge between \$.51 and \$.62 inclusive;

29 (d) Seven cents for a charge between \$.63 and \$.75 inclusive;

30 (e) Eight cents for a charge between \$.76 and \$.87 inclusive;

31 (f) Nine cents for a charge between \$.88 and \$1.00 inclusive;

32 (g) ~~[Nine]~~ **Eight and a half** percent of the charge for taxable meals over \$1.00, provided
33 that fractions of cents shall be rounded up to the next whole cent.

34 II-a. A tax of ~~[9]~~ 8.5 percent is imposed upon the gross rental receipts of each rental.

35 III. The operator shall collect the taxes imposed by this section and shall pay them over to
36 the state as provided in this chapter.

1 104 Applicability. RSA 78-A:6, as amended by section 103 of this act, shall be applicable to
2 taxable periods beginning on or after October 1, 2021.

3 105 Effective Date. Sections 103-104 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

4 106 Business Enterprise Tax; Returns. Amend RSA 77-E:5, I to read as follows:

5 I. Every business enterprise having gross business receipts in excess of [~~\$200,000~~] **\$250,000**
6 as defined by RSA 77-E:1, X, during the taxable period or the enterprise value tax base of which is
7 greater than [~~\$100,000~~] **\$250,000** shall, on or before the fifteenth day of the third month in the case
8 of enterprises required to file a United States partnership tax return, and the fifteenth day of the
9 fourth month in the case of all other business enterprises, following expiration of its taxable period,
10 make a return to the commissioner. For tax years beginning January 1, 2015, the commissioner
11 shall biennially adjust these threshold amounts rounding to the nearest \$1,000 based on the 2-year
12 (24-month) percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, Northeast
13 Region as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor using the
14 amount published for the month of June in the year prior to the start of the tax year. All returns
15 shall be signed by the business enterprise or by its authorized representative, subject to the pains
16 and penalties of perjury and the penalties provided in RSA 21-J:39.

17 107 Applicability. RSA 77-E:5, I, as amended by section 106 of this act, shall be applicable to
18 taxable periods ending on or after December 31, ~~2022~~.

19 108 Effective Date. Sections ~~106-107~~ of this act shall take effect January 1, 2022.

20 109 Business Enterprise Tax; Rate Reduced. Amend RSA 77-E:2 to read as follows:

21 77-E:2 Imposition of Tax.

22 I. For all taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2019, a tax is imposed at the rate
23 of 0.6 percent upon the taxable enterprise value tax base of every business enterprise.

24 II. For all taxable periods ending on or after December 31, ~~[2021]~~ **2022**, a tax is imposed at
25 the rate of [~~0.675~~] **0.55** percent upon the taxable enterprise value tax base of every business
26 enterprise.

27 ~~III. For all taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2021, a tax is imposed at the~~
28 ~~rate of 0.5 percent upon the taxable enterprise value tax base of every business enterprise.~~

29 ~~IV. Upon completion of the audited comprehensive annual report performed pursuant to~~
30 ~~RSA 21-I:8, II(a), the commissioner of the department of revenue administration shall report the~~
31 ~~total amount of combined unrestricted general and education trust fund revenue collected for the~~
32 ~~fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, as reported in the schedule of undesignated/unassigned fund~~
33 ~~balance for the general fund and education fund, to the secretary of state with copies to the governor,~~
34 ~~speaker of the house of representatives, the senate president, the fiscal committee of the general~~
35 ~~court, and the director of the office of legislative services. If the combined amount of general and~~
36 ~~education trust fund revenue collected, not including sums appropriated to the education trust fund~~
37 ~~in section 386 of this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is 6 percent or more below the~~

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1 ~~official revenue estimates for said fiscal year, the tax shall be imposed at the rate in paragraph II~~
2 ~~and the rate in paragraph III shall not take effect. If the combined amount of general and education~~
3 ~~trust fund revenue collected, not including sums appropriated to the education trust fund in section~~
4 ~~386 of this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is 6 percent or more above the official~~
5 ~~revenue estimates for said fiscal year, the tax shall be imposed at the rate in paragraph III and the~~
6 ~~rate in paragraph II shall not take effect. If the combined amount of general and education trust~~
7 ~~fund revenue collected, not including sums appropriated to the education trust fund in section 386 of~~
8 ~~this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is not 6 percent or more below or above the official~~
9 ~~revenue estimates for said fiscal year, the tax shall continue to be imposed at the rate in paragraph~~
10 ~~I, and the rates in paragraphs II and III shall not take effect.]~~

11 110 Business Profits Tax; Rate Reduced; Contingency Deleted. Amend RSA 77-A:2 to read as
12 follows:

13 77-A:2 Imposition of Tax.

14 I. For all taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2019, a tax is imposed at the rate
15 of 7.7 percent upon the taxable business profits of every business organization.

16 II. ~~[For all taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2021, a tax is imposed at the~~
17 ~~rate of 7.9 percent upon the taxable business profits of every business organization.~~

18 ~~III.] For all taxable periods ending on or after December 31, [2021] 2022, a tax is imposed at~~
19 ~~the rate of [7.5] 7.6 percent upon the taxable business profits of every business organization.~~

20 ~~[IV. Upon completion of the audited comprehensive annual report performed pursuant to~~
21 ~~RSA 21 I:8, II(a), the commissioner of the department of revenue administration shall report the~~
22 ~~total amount of combined unrestricted general and education trust fund revenue collected for the~~
23 ~~fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, as reported in the schedule of undesignated/unassigned fund~~
24 ~~balance for the general fund and education fund, to the secretary of state with copies to the governor,~~
25 ~~speaker of the house of representatives, the senate president, the fiscal committee of the general~~
26 ~~court, and the director of the office of legislative services. If the combined amount of general and~~
27 ~~education trust fund revenue collected, not including sums appropriated to the education trust fund~~
28 ~~in section 386 of this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is 6 percent or more below the~~
29 ~~official revenue estimates for said fiscal year, the tax shall be imposed at the rate in paragraph II~~
30 ~~and the rate in paragraph III shall not take effect. If the combined amount of general and education~~
31 ~~trust fund revenue collected, not including sums appropriated to the education trust fund in section~~
32 ~~386 of this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is 6 percent or more above the official~~
33 ~~revenue estimates for said fiscal year, the tax shall be imposed at the rate in paragraph III and the~~
34 ~~rate in paragraph II shall not take effect. If the combined amount of general and education trust~~
35 ~~fund revenue collected, not including sums appropriated to the education trust fund in section 386 of~~
36 ~~this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is not 6 percent or more below or above the official~~

1 ~~revenue estimates for said fiscal year, the tax shall continue to be imposed at the rate in paragraph~~
2 ~~I, and the rates in paragraphs II and III shall not take effect.]~~

3 111 Effective Date. Sections 109-110 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

4 112 New Section; Business Profits Tax; Clarification of PPP Loans. Amend RSA 77-A by
5 inserting after section 3-b the following new section:

6 77-A:3-c Clarification of Tax Treatment of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loans. In
7 determining gross business profits for any period, before net operating loss and special deductions,
8 notwithstanding any other provision of law, a business organization shall apply the provisions of the
9 United States Internal Revenue Code consistent with the following adjustments:

10 I. No amount shall be included in the gross business income of the eligible recipient by
11 reason of forgiveness of indebtedness issued or created under the federal Paycheck Protection
12 Program (PPP) which was first established under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic
13 Security Act (P.L. 116-136, enacted March 3, 2020) or issued or created under the federal PPP
14 Second Draw Loan Program established under the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
15 (P.L. 116-260, enacted December 27, 2020).

16 II. No deduction shall be denied, no tax attribute shall be reduced, and no basis increase
17 shall be denied, by reason of the exclusion from gross business income provided by paragraph I.

18 III. This section shall apply to taxable years ending after March 3, 2020, corresponding with
19 the date of the enactment of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

20 113 Meals and Rooms Tax; Disposition of Revenue; Fund Established. Amend RSA 78-A:26 to
21 read as follows:

22 78-A:26 Disposition of Revenue.

23 I. Beginning on July 1, 1995, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the department shall pay
24 over all revenue, except revenues identified in ~~[paragraph III]~~ **paragraphs II and III** of this
25 section, collected under this chapter to the state treasurer. On or before September 15 of each year,
26 the department shall determine the cost of administration of this chapter for the fiscal year ending
27 on the preceding June 30, and it shall notify the state treasurer of these costs by a report certified by
28 them as to correctness. After deducting the cost of administration of the chapter from the total
29 income, the state treasurer shall distribute the net income as follows:

30 (a) The amount necessary to provide payments of principal and interest on the bonds
31 and notes authorized under RSA 198:15-a, II for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2009 through June
32 30, 2030; **and**

33 ~~[(b) [Repealed];~~

34 ~~(c) Forty percent of the net income under the introductory paragraph of paragraph I of~~
35 ~~the most recent fiscal year to the unincorporated towns, unorganized places, towns, and cities. The~~
36 ~~amount to be distributed to each such town, place, or city shall be determined by multiplying the~~
37 ~~amount to be distributed by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the population of the~~

1 ~~unincorporated town, unorganized place, town or city and the denominator of which shall be the~~
2 ~~population of the state. The population figures shall be based on the latest resident population~~
3 ~~figures furnished by the office of strategic initiatives; and~~

4 ~~(d)] (b) The remainder to the general fund.~~

5 II. ~~[Each fiscal year, the amount to be distributed shall be equal to the prior year's~~
6 ~~distribution plus an amount equal to 75 percent of any increase in the income received from the~~
7 ~~meals and rooms tax for the fiscal year ending on the preceding June 30, not to exceed \$5,000,000,~~
8 ~~until such time as the total amount distributed annually is equal to the amount indicated in~~
9 ~~subparagraph I(c).~~

10 ~~III.] Beginning on July 1, 1999, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the department shall pay~~
11 ~~over all revenue collected pursuant to RSA 78-A:6, II-a to the state treasurer for deposit in the~~
12 ~~education trust fund established by RSA 198:39.~~

13 *III. On or before December 1, 2021 and each December 1 thereafter, 30 percent of the*
14 *net income determined under the introductory paragraph of paragraph I of the most recent*
15 *fiscal year, after deductions for the cost of administration and revenues deposited in the*
16 *education trust fund pursuant to paragraph II, shall be deposited into the meals and*
17 *rooms municipal revenue fund for distribution to the unincorporated towns, unorganized*
18 *places, towns, and cities. The amount to be distributed to each such town, place, or city*
19 *shall be determined by multiplying the total amount to be distributed by a fraction, the*
20 *numerator of which shall be the population of the unincorporated town, unorganized*
21 *place, town, or city and the denominator of which shall be the population of the state. The*
22 *population figures shall be based on the latest resident population figures furnished by the*
23 *office of strategic initiatives.*

24 *IV. There is hereby established in the treasury the meals and rooms municipal*
25 *revenue fund. Any money deposited into the meals and rooms municipal revenue fund*
26 *shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the state treasurer for distribution to*
27 *the unincorporated towns, unorganized places, towns, and cities pursuant to paragraph*
28 *III.*

29 114 New Subparagraph; Treasury; Application of Receipts. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting
30 after subparagraph (364) the following new subparagraph:

31 (365) Moneys deposited in the meals and rooms municipal revenue fund established
32 in RSA 78-A:26, IV.

33 115 Reference Changed; Education Trust Fund. Amend RSA 198:39, I(c) to read as follows:

34 (c) Funds collected and paid over to the state treasurer by the commissioner of revenue
35 administration pursuant to RSA 78-A:26, [HH] II relative to the tax on motor vehicle rentals.

36 116 Business Profits Tax; Credit Carry-forward Limited; Payments Due With Returns and
37 Estimates. Amend RSA 77-A:7, I(b) to read as follows:

1 (b) If the return required by RSA 77-A:6, I shows an additional amount to be due, such
2 additional amount is due and payable on the prescribed payment date. If such return shows an
3 overpayment of the tax due, the commissioner shall refund or credit the overpayment to the
4 taxpayer in accordance with RSA 21-J:28-a, **except that:**

5 (1) **For taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2022 a credit shall**
6 **only be allowed in an amount up to 500 percent of the total tax liability for the taxable**
7 **period and the remainder of the overpayment shall be refunded;**

8 (2) **For taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2025 a credit shall**
9 **only be allowed in an amount up to 250 percent of the total tax liability for the taxable**
10 **period and the remainder of the overpayment shall be refunded; and**

11 (3) **For taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2027 a credit shall**
12 **only be allowed in an amount up to 100 percent of the total tax liability for the taxable**
13 **period and the remainder of the overpayment shall be refunded.**

14 117 Business Enterprise Tax; Credit Carry-forward Limited; Payments Due With Returns.
15 Amend RSA 77-E:6, II to read as follows:

16 II. If the return required by RSA 77-E:5, I shows an amount to be due, such amount is due
17 and payable on the prescribed payment date. If such return shows an overpayment of the tax due,
18 the commissioner shall refund ~~[such]~~ **or credit the** overpayment to the business enterprise ~~[or shall~~
19 ~~allow the enterprise a credit against a subsequent payment or payment due, to the extent of the~~
20 ~~overpayment, at the enterprise's option]~~ **in accordance with RSA 21-J:28-a, except that:**

21 (a) **For taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2022 a credit shall only**
22 **be allowed in an amount up to 500 percent of the total tax liability for the taxable period**
23 **and the remainder of the overpayment shall be refunded;**

24 (b) **For taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2025 a credit shall only**
25 **be allowed in an amount up to 250 percent of the total tax liability for the taxable period**
26 **and the remainder of the overpayment shall be refunded; and**

27 (c) ~~For taxable periods ending on or after December 31, 2027 a credit shall only~~
28 ~~be allowed in an amount up to 100 percent of the total tax liability for the taxable period~~
29 ~~and the remainder of the overpayment shall be refunded.~~

30 118 New Section; Commission to Study Limiting the Business Tax Credit Carry Over. Amend
31 RSA 77-A by inserting after section 7-a the following new section:

32 77-A:7-b Commission to Study Limiting the Business Tax Credit Carry Over.

33 I. There is a established a commission to study limiting the business tax credit carry over.
34 The members of the commission shall be as follows:

35 (a) Four members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
36 of representatives with at least 2 members from the ways and means committee and one member
37 from the finance committee.

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- 1 (b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.
- 2 (c) The treasurer for the state of New Hampshire, or designee.
- 3 (d) The comptroller for the state of New Hampshire, or designee.
- 4 (e) The commissioner for the department of revenue administration, or designee.
- 5 (f) One member representing the accounting or auditing industry, appointed by the
- 6 governor.

7 II. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
8 attending to the duties of the commission.

9 III. The commission's study shall include, but not be limited to, examining the credit carry
10 over for the business profits tax and business enterprise tax, the liability associated with the credit
11 carry over, and the impact of limiting the credit carry over may have on cash-flow and liquidity, and
12 make recommendations on future limitations of the credit carry over. The commission shall also
13 examine whether a business tax credit or other type of credit could be made available to those
14 entities using their credit carry over refund to invest in affordable housing development in New
15 Hampshire and make recommendations on how this type of program would be implemented.

16 IV. The commission may solicit input from any person or entity the commission deems
17 relevant to its study.

18 V. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The
19 first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting
20 of the commission shall be held as soon as practical but not later than 30 days of the effective date of
21 this section. Five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

22 VI. The commission shall submit a report including its findings and any recommendations
23 for proposed legislation on or before November 1, 2021 to the speaker of the house of representatives,
24 the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library.

25 119 Repeal. RSA 77-A:7-b, relative to the commission to study limiting the business tax credit
26 carry over, is repealed.

27 120 Effective Date.

28 I. Sections 116-118 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

29 II. Section 119 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2021.

30 121 New Hampshire Veterans' Home; Unfunded Positions; Authorization. Notwithstanding any
31 other provision of law to the contrary, the New Hampshire veterans' home may fill unfunded
32 positions during the biennium ending June 30, 2023, provided that the total expenditure for such
33 positions shall not exceed the amount appropriated for personal services.

34 122 New Hampshire Veterans' Home; Transfer Among Accounts and Classes. Notwithstanding
35 any provision of law to the contrary, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, the commandant of the
36 New Hampshire veterans' home is authorized to transfer funds within and among all accounting
37 units within the home and to create accounting units and expenditure classes as required and as the

1 commandant deems necessary and appropriate to address present or projected budget deficits, or to
2 respond to changes in federal law, regulations, or programs, and otherwise as necessary for the
3 efficient management of the home, including funding of unfunded positions, provided that if a
4 transfer does not include new accounting units or expenditure classes, only such transfers of
5 \$100,000 or more shall require prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court and the
6 governor and council. The New Hampshire veterans' home shall be exempt from RSA 9:17-a, I and
7 RSA 9:17-c, subject to approval by the fiscal committee of the general court of any transfer of
8 appropriations from permanent personal services or employee benefits to any other use or purpose.

9 123 Wildlife Damage Control; Limitations for Persons Posting Property. Amend RSA 207:22-a
10 to read as follows:

11 207:22-a Limitations for Persons Posting Property.

12 *I.* Any person whose land is posted pursuant to RSA 635:4 to prohibit hunting shall forfeit
13 the right to participate in the wildlife damage control program established pursuant to RSA 207:22-
14 c, or to receive payment pursuant to RSA 207:23-a, except that this limitation shall not apply in the
15 following circumstances:

16 ~~[I.]~~ *(a)* To a person who posts only the person's land lying within 100 yards of a dwelling or
17 other farm or outbuildings contiguous to the person's dwelling and used regularly by the person, or
18 the person's family or tenant.

19 ~~[II.]~~ *(b)* To any person whose land is posted for the protection of crops only during the closed
20 season for the type of game birds or animals for which the person seeks assistance from the wildlife
21 damage control program.

22 ~~[III.]~~ *(c)* To any person who posts such person's land "Hunting by Permission Only",
23 provided that the names and addresses of the hunters who have received permission to hunt that
24 land in that year shall be furnished when requested by the executive director, and that in the
25 judgment of the executive director, the history of hunter access and hunter density represents a
26 good-faith effort by the landowner to allow hunting.

27 *II.* **Any person who has received payment pursuant to RSA 207:23-a shall forfeit the**
28 **right to receive payment in a future year or growing season unless such person implements**
29 **measures to prevent or mitigate future conflicts with bear that have been recommended in**
30 **writing by the executive director or the executive director's agent.**

31 124 Damage by Bears. Amend RSA 207:23-a to read as follows:

32 207:23-a Damage by Bears ~~[or Mountain Lions]~~.

33 *I.* ~~[A person]~~ **Any person engaged in the husbandry and sale of at least \$1,000 in**
34 **agricultural products as defined in RSA 21:34-a** who suffers loss or damage to livestock, bees,
35 orchards or growing crops, **in an amount of \$250 or more at the current wholesale value of the**
36 **items**, by bear ~~[or mountain lion]~~, shall, if he *or she* claims damage therefor, notify the executive
37 director of fish and game in writing of such damage **within 30 days of the discovery of such**

1 *damage.* The executive director or ~~[his]~~ *the executive director's* agent shall investigate such
2 claim within 30 days from the receipt ~~[by him]~~ of notice of such damage, and ~~[within one year]~~ *in*
3 *accordance with RSA 541-A:29*, determine whether such damage was caused by bear ~~[or mountain~~
4 ~~lion]~~, and appraise the amount to be paid, *and notify the claimant in writing of the*
5 *determination.*

6 *II. If the person sustaining the damage claimed under this section is dissatisfied*
7 *with the finding of the executive director, such person shall notify the executive director in*
8 *writing, and an adjudicative proceeding shall be commenced pursuant to RSA 541-A:31.*

9 *III. If the person sustaining the damage is dissatisfied with the decision of the*
10 *executive director following the adjudicative proceeding, a further appeal shall be*
11 *available in accordance with RSA 541.*

12 *IV. The executive director, ~~[immediately upon making any appraisal of damage thereof]~~*
13 *upon reaching final agreement with the claimant, or after the conclusion of an appeal,*
14 *shall present ~~[his]~~ a certificate of the amount of appraisal to the governor, who is authorized to draw*
15 *~~[his]~~ a warrant upon any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated in payment therefor.*

16 *V. The executive director shall, in accordance with RSA 541-A, adopt rules to*
17 *administer this provision, to include:*

18 *(a) Criteria to determine whether a person engaged in the husbandry and sale*
19 *of agricultural products as defined in RSA 21:34-a qualifies to be a claimant hereunder,*
20 *provided that any such person who shall document gross sales of any qualifying crop of at*
21 *least \$1,000 in a calendar year shall be deemed to qualify as a claimant.*

22 *(b) Procedures used to receive and document claims of damage by bear from*
23 *claimants, to include when the damage occurred, which qualifying crop is affected, and*
24 *what losses may be fairly attributed to action by such bear;*

25 *(c) A method to determine the current wholesale value of items covered by this*
26 *section, to be used in the process of investigating and adjudicating any claim;*

27 *(d) Procedures to be used in the conduct of adjudicative proceedings hereunder;*

28 *and*

29 *(e) Criteria to be used to recommend preventive measures and mitigating*
30 *measures that claimants may use to prevent future harm, and that will be used to*
31 *determine whether claims in future years shall be allowed for payment.*

32 125 Repeal. RSA 207:24, relative to an appeal from the executive director, is repealed.

33 126 Department of Information Technology; Unfunded Positions. Notwithstanding any other
34 provision of law to the contrary, the department of information technology may fill unfunded
35 positions during the biennium ending June 30, 2023, provided that the total expenditure for such
36 positions shall not exceed the amount appropriated for personnel services.

37 127 Adult Parole Board; Establishment. Amend RSA 651-A:3 to read as follows:

1 651-A:3 Adult Parole Board; Establishment; Procedures.

2 I. There shall be an adult parole board with [9] **5** members, **2 of which shall be attorneys**
3 **with active licenses**. The members of the board shall be appointed by the governor with the
4 consent of the council for staggered terms of 5 years or until their successors are appointed. No
5 member shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms. A vacancy on the board shall be filled for the
6 unexpired term.

7 **II. The composition of the board shall be as follows:**

8 **(a) One member as chairman.**

9 **(b) Four additional members, to include:**

10 **(1) One member with law enforcement or corrections experience, either**
11 **current or former.**

12 **(2) One member with criminal justice experience, which may be direct**
13 **employment experience, current or former, in some capacity within the criminal justice**
14 **system, or post-secondary school teaching, scholarship, and research pertaining to the**
15 **criminal justice system.**

16 **(3) One at-large member who is either an attorney with an active New**
17 **Hampshire license or a mental health professional with an active New Hampshire license;**

18 **(4) One at-large member without any categorical designation.**

19 **III.** The governor shall designate one member as chairman [~~and the chairman shall~~
20 ~~designate one other member to serve as chairman in his absence~~]. **The salary of the chairman**
21 **shall be that established in RSA 94:1-a as grade GG, with appropriate step to be**
22 **determined in accordance the provisions of RSA 94:1-d. The chairman shall designate one**
23 **other member to serve as temporary designee chairman in his or her absence, however, the**
24 **designated chairman shall not receive the chairman's salary or employee status while**
25 **servng in the chairman's absence.** In the case of a revocation hearing an attorney of the board
26 shall be present at the hearing. Board members shall be paid [~~\$100 a day plus mileage at the state~~
27 ~~employee rate while engaged in parole hearings or administrative meetings~~] **an annual stipend of**
28 **\$20,000 for each member, to be paid in equal installments on each state employee pay**
29 **period date. Board members shall be paid mileage at the state employee rate while**
30 **engaged in parole hearings or administrative meetings.**

31 **[H] IV.** The board shall hold at least [24] **36** days of parole hearings and **36** days of parole
32 **revocation hearings** each year and may hold more hearings as necessary. Each parole **and**
33 **parole revocation** hearing shall be held by a hearing panel consisting of exactly 3 members of the
34 board. The board shall establish operating procedures which provide for rotation of board members
35 among hearing panels.

36 **V. In the event of a pandemic or other extraordinary occurrence declared an**
37 **emergency by the governor that results in restricted movement or quarantining of inmates**

1 *at any New Hampshire state prison facility, the parole board may conduct all hearings via*
2 *teleconference or other video conference technology.*

3 128 Applicability. On the effective date of section 127 of this act, the current chairman of the
4 adult parole board shall remain chairman and designate 4 current members who fit the criteria
5 outlined in RSA 651-A:3, II(b)(1)-(4) as inserted by section 127 of this act, to remain members of the
6 parole board according to their current terms. In the event that there are not 4 members on the
7 existing board who meet the criteria outlined in RSA 651-A:3, II(b)(1)-(4), the chairman may
8 designate an existing member to temporarily occupy any open member vacancy until a new
9 appointment for the vacancy is nominated by the governor and confirmed by the executive council.
10 Any current members who remain on the board, including the current chairman, shall serve until
11 the expiration of their current terms or until a successor is appointed and qualified.

12 129 Workers' Compensation; Administration Fund. Amend RSA 281-A:59, III to read as follows:

13 III. Each insurance carrier and self-insurer, including the state, shall make payments to the
14 fund of its pro rata share of one fiscal year's costs to be appropriated out of the fund. The governor is
15 authorized to draw a warrant for any sum payable by the state under this paragraph out of any
16 money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. The pro rata share shall be computed on the
17 basis which the total workers' compensation benefits, including medical benefits, paid by each
18 insurance carrier and self-insurer bore to the total workers' compensation benefits, including
19 medical benefits, paid by all insurance carriers and self-insurers in the ~~[fiscal year ending in the]~~
20 preceding calendar year; provided, however, that no insurance carrier or self-insurer shall pay an
21 assessment of less than \$100. The commissioner shall assess each insurance carrier and self-insurer
22 as soon as possible after July 1 of each year. Total assessments shall not exceed the amount
23 appropriated for the fund, which shall include the budget of the workers' compensation division of
24 the department of labor for the fiscal year in which the assessment is made and all other costs of
25 administering this chapter. The balance in the fund at the beginning of the new fiscal year shall
26 proportionately reduce the assessments under this section. The commissioner shall have the
27 authority to adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the manner in which such payments are
28 to be made.

29 130 Workers' Compensation; Special Fund for Second Injuries. Amend RSA 281-A:55, III to
30 read as follows:

31 III. Each insurance carrier and self-insurer shall, pursuant to rules adopted by the
32 commissioner, make payments to the fund in an amount equal to that proportion of 115 percent of
33 the total obligation of the fund during the preceding 12 months, less the amount of the net assets in
34 the fund as of March 31 of the current year, which the total workers' compensation benefits,
35 including medical benefits, paid by each insurance carrier and self-insurer bore to the total workers'
36 compensation benefits, including medical benefits, paid by all insurance carriers and self-insurers in
37 the ~~[fiscal year ending in the]~~ preceding calendar year.

1 131 Workers' Compensation; Hearings and Awards. Amend RSA 281-A:43, I(a) to read as
2 follows:

3 I.(a) In a controversy as to the responsibility of an employer or the employer's insurance
4 carrier for the payment of compensation and other benefits under this chapter, any party at interest
5 may petition the commissioner in writing for a hearing and award. The petition shall be sent to the
6 commissioner at the department's offices in Concord and shall set forth the reasons for requesting
7 the hearing and the questions in dispute which the applicant expects to be resolved. The
8 commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative shall schedule a hearing, either in
9 Concord or at a location nearest the employee as determined by the commissioner, by fixing its time
10 and place and giving notice at least 14 days prior to the date for which it is scheduled. The hearing
11 date shall be set for a time not to exceed 6 weeks from the date the petition was received. In those
12 instances where an expedited hearing is requested, the petition for hearing shall set forth the facts
13 in sufficient detail to support the request for an expedited hearing. The commissioner, or his or her
14 authorized agent shall, in his or her discretion, determine whether the need exists for an expedited
15 hearing. Any requests for an expedited hearing shall be periodically reviewed by the commissioner
16 to determine whether such requests are given proper attention. The commissioner shall also identify
17 any overutilization by the requesting parties and responses given to such requests by the
18 commissioner. An annual report of the expedited requests, responses, the number of continuances,
19 the reasons for such continuances, the number of requests for hearing, and the time within which
20 the hearings were held shall be made annually to the advisory council established in RSA 281-A:62.
21 The notice may be given in hand ~~[or by certified mail, return receipt requested]~~, **via first class**
22 **mail, or, upon consent of the parties, by electronic transmission.** Continuances of any hearing
23 are discouraged; however, should a continuance be necessary, the parties requesting such
24 continuance shall file with the department a written petition for such continuance at least 7 days
25 prior to the hearing. Failure to file such a petition shall bar any right to a continuance. Thereafter,
26 a continuance may only be granted upon the commissioner's finding that a compelling need exists so
27 as to require a continuance. At such hearing, it shall be incumbent upon all parties to present all
28 available evidence and the person conducting the hearing shall give full consideration to all evidence
29 presented. In addition, the person conducting the hearing shall freely and comprehensively examine
30 all witnesses to determine the merits of the matter. Also, the person conducting the hearing may
31 recess the hearing to a date certain and direct the parties, or either of them, to provide such further
32 information that may be necessary to decide the matter. No later than 30 days after the hearing, the
33 commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative shall render a decision and shall
34 forthwith notify the parties of it. When appropriate, the commissioner, or his or her authorized
35 representative, may render a decision at the hearing. Unless excused for good cause shown, **or a**
36 **party has not received notice**, failure of any or all parties at interest to appear at a duly scheduled
37 hearing or to petition for a continuance shall bar such parties from any further action concerning an

1 adverse decision, a decision by default, or a dismissal of a petition for hearing and award. *The*
2 *commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, shall serve notice of a pending*
3 *default, default decision, or dismissal of a petition for hearing and award on the*
4 *defaulting party via certified mail, return receipt requested. Upon receipt of undeliverable*
5 *certified mail, the commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, shall stay the*
6 *proceedings for up to one year from the date of the receipt of undeliverable certified mail*
7 *during which time the commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, shall make*
8 *all reasonable attempts to provide notice to the defaulting party. If notice cannot be*
9 *provided within one year, the commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, shall*
10 *render a decision in favor of the non-defaulting party.*

11 132 Unemployment Compensation; Contributions; Minimum Rate. Amend RSA 282-A:82, II-III
12 to read as follows:

13 II. There shall be subtracted in any calendar quarter from every employer's contribution
14 rate one percent whenever the unemployment compensation fund equals or exceeds [~~\$275,000,000~~]
15 **\$350,000,000** throughout the next preceding calendar quarter.

16 III. There shall be subtracted in any calendar quarter from every employer's contribution
17 rate 1.5 percent whenever the unemployment compensation fund equals or exceeds [~~\$300,000,000~~]
18 **\$400,000,000** throughout the next preceding calendar quarter.

19 133 Unemployment Compensation; Contributions; Inverse Minimum Rate. Amend RSA 282-
20 A:82-a, II-III to read as follows:

21 II. There shall be added in any calendar quarter to every such employer's contribution rate
22 one percent whenever the unemployment compensation fund fails to equal or exceed [~~\$275,000,000~~]
23 **\$350,000,000** throughout the next preceding calendar quarter.

24 III. There shall be added in any calendar quarter to every such employer's contribution rate
25 .5 percent whenever the unemployment compensation fund fails to equal or exceed [~~\$300,000,000~~]
26 **\$400,000,000** throughout the next preceding calendar quarter.

27 134 Repeal: The following are repealed:

28 I. RSA 282-A:84, relative to emergency power of the commissioner of the department of
29 unemployment security.

30 II. RSA 282-A:84-a, relative to the emergency surcharge power of the commissioner of the
31 department of unemployment security.

32 135 Liability for Obstruction or Injury to Highway; Civil Liability. Amend RSA 236:39 to read
33 as follows:

34 236:39 Civil Liability.

35 I. If any person, without authority, shall place any obstruction in a highway, or cause any
36 defect, insufficiency, or want of repair of a highway which renders it unsuitable for public travel, he
37 or she shall be liable to the state for all damages to the highway, including *full and current*

1 replacement costs of protective barriers, *and any structure or device that is part of the*
2 *highway or turnpike system*, when maintained by the state, or to the municipality for all damages
3 to a highway, including *full and current* replacement costs of protective barriers *and any*
4 *structure or device that is part of the highway*, when maintained by the municipality, and for
5 all damages and costs which the state or municipality shall be compelled to pay to any person
6 injured by such obstruction, defect, insufficiency, or want of repair as established through an
7 appropriate contribution claim or under the rules of joint and several liability.

8 **II. "Full and current replacement cost" as used in this section means actual or**
9 **reasonable estimates of labor, including contracted labor, material, equipment, and**
10 **overhead. Such costs shall not be reduced for depreciation.**

11 136 Repeal. 1959; 286, relative to the Sandwich Notch and Dale Road in the towns of Sandwich
12 and Thornton, is repealed.

13 137 Department of Transportation; Disposal of Highway or Turnpike Funded Real Estate.
14 Amend the section heading for RSA 4:39-c to read as follows:

15 4:39-c Disposal of Highway, *Federal*, or Turnpike Funded Real Estate.

16 138 Department of Transportation; Disposal of Highway or Turnpike Funded Real Estate.
17 Amend RSA 4:39-c, III to read as follows:

18 III. The proceeds from a sale, conveyance, transfer, or lease under this section shall be
19 credited to either the highway fund, ~~restricted federal fund~~, or the turnpike fund, whichever fund
20 provided money for the original purchase. *Proceeds from a sale that results from money*
21 *provided by the highway fund for payback of real property purchased with federal funds*
22 *shall be credited to the department and shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated*
23 *to the department for the purposes of meeting federal obligations or reimbursing the*
24 *highway fund for payment of federal obligations.*

25 139 New Paragraphs; New Hampshire Aeronautics Act; Definitions. Amend RSA 422:3 by
26 inserting after paragraph XXVII the following new paragraphs:

27 XXVII-a. "Small unmanned aircraft" means an unmanned aircraft as defined in federal
28 regulations, as amended.

29 XXVII-b. "Small unmanned aircraft system" means a small unmanned aircraft and its
30 associated elements as defined in federal regulations, as amended.

31 140 New Paragraph; New Hampshire Aeronautics Act; Definitions. Amend RSA 422:3 by
32 inserting after paragraph XXIX the following new paragraph:

33 XXX. "Unmanned aircraft" means an aircraft as defined in federal regulations, as amended.

34 141 New Hampshire Aeronautics Act; Duties of the Commissioner. Amend RSA 422:4, VI to
35 read as follows:

36 VI. Effecting uniformity in the regulations pertaining to the operation of aircraft by
37 adopting uniform rules consistent with federal regulations and making noncompliance with federal

1 regulations a violation of state law, thereby enabling the law enforcement agencies of the state to
2 enforce the laws regulating the operation of aircraft. For the purposes of this paragraph, aircraft
3 shall include ultralight vehicles [~~as defined in 14 C.F.R. part 103~~] **as defined in federal**
4 **regulations, as amended, and small unmanned aircraft systems as defined in RSA 422:3,**
5 **XXVII-b.**

6 142 Department of Transportation; Appropriation Amended. Amend 2018;162:25, I to read as
7 follows:

8 I. The sum of \$20,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the department of transportation for the
9 fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, which shall be [~~nonlapsing and~~] expended for the purposes of
10 funding state red list bridge projects **and shall lapse to the highway fund on June 30, 2021.**
11 The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not
12 otherwise appropriated.

13 143 Effective Date. Section 142 of this act shall take effect on June 30, 2021.

14 144 Department of Safety; Fund Transfer; Unfunded Positions; Authorization.

15 I. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 9:16-a, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, the
16 department of safety may transfer funds between accounting units in classes 027-transfers to the
17 department of information technology, 028-transfers to general services, 064-retiree pension benefit
18 health insurance compensation, and 211-property and casualty insurance, upon approval of the
19 department of administrative services' budget office.

20 II. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the department of safety may
21 fill unfunded positions during the biennium ending June 30, 2023, provided that the total
22 expenditure for such positions shall not exceed the amount appropriated for personal services.

23 145 New Section; Body-Worn Cameras. Amend RSA 105-D by inserting after section 2 the
24 following new section:

25 105-D:3 Body-Worn and Dashboard Camera Fund.

26 I. There is hereby established the body-worn and dashboard camera fund within the
27 department of safety for the purpose of encouraging local law enforcement agencies to equip officers
28 with body-worn cameras and agency vehicles with dashboard cameras. All moneys in the fund shall
29 be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the department of safety.

30 II.(a) The fund shall provide matching grants to local law enforcement agencies to assist
31 agencies with the purchase, maintenance, and replacement of body-worn and dashboard cameras
32 and ongoing costs related to the maintenance and storage of data recorded by body-worn and
33 dashboard cameras.

34 (b) The commissioner of the department of safety may also use the fund to pay for the
35 classified position of business administrator I established in the department of safety, division of
36 administration.

37 III. All local law enforcement agencies shall be eligible to apply for grants from the fund.

1 IV. The fund shall be overseen by the commissioner of the department of safety and the
2 attorney general who shall, within 180 days of the effective date of this section, jointly establish a
3 process for the application for matching grants from the fund. Such process shall be established in
4 rules adopted jointly by the commissioner of safety and attorney general in accordance with RSA
5 541-A.

6 V. The commissioner of the department of safety may charge administrative costs related to
7 this section to the fund.

8 146 Body-Worn and Dashboard Camera Fund; Appropriation. The sum of \$1,000,000 for the
9 fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 is hereby appropriated to the body-worn and dashboard camera
10 fund established in RSA 105-D:3. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of
11 any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

12 147 Body Worn Cameras Purchase; Appropriation; Department of Corrections. There is hereby
13 appropriated to the department of corrections the sum of \$720,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30,
14 2021 to fund the purchase of body worn cameras for corrections and probation and parole officers.
15 The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not
16 otherwise appropriated. This appropriation shall not lapse until June 30, 2023.

17 148 Effective Date. Section 147 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

18 149 Department of Safety; Position Created. There is hereby established in the department of
19 safety, division of administration, the full-time classified position of business administrator I. The
20 commissioner of the department of safety may use the body-worn and dashboard camera fund
21 established in RSA 105-D:3 to fund the position.

22 150 New Section; Complaints Alleging Law Enforcement Misconduct; Commission Established.
23 Amend RSA 105-D by inserting after section 2 the following new section:

24 105-D:2-a Statewide Entity to Receive Complaints Alleging Misconduct Regarding Sworn and
25 Elected Law Enforcement Officers; Commission Established.

26 I. There is hereby established a commission to develop recommendations for legislation to
27 establish a single, neutral, and independent statewide entity to receive complaints alleging
28 misconduct regarding all sworn and elected law enforcement officers pursuant to recommendation
29 #16 in the final report issued by the New Hampshire commission on law enforcement accountability,
30 community and transparency. The commission shall be composed of the following members:

- 31 (a) The attorney general, or designee, who shall be the chairperson of the commission.
32 (b) One member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house.
33 (c) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.
34 (d) The director of the New Hampshire police standards and training council, or
35 designee.
36 (e) The commissioner of safety, or designee.

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1 (f) Four additional members from the New Hampshire commission on law enforcement
2 accountability, community and transparency established in Executive Order 2020-11, appointed by
3 the attorney general. Two of these members shall be law enforcement members and 2 of these
4 members shall not be law enforcement members.

5 II. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
6 attending to the duties of the commission.

7 III. The chairperson of the commission shall call the first meeting within 30 days of the
8 effective date of this section. Five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

9 IV. The commission shall submit a report containing its recommendations for legislation to
10 the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, and the state
11 library no later than November 1, 2021.

12 151 Appropriation; Statewide Entity to Receive Complaints of Misconduct. The sum of \$100,000
13 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 is hereby appropriated to the department of administrative
14 services which shall be available to fund an independent statewide entity to receive complaints
15 alleging misconduct regarding all sworn and elected law enforcement officers established pursuant
16 to recommendation #16 in the final report issued by the New Hampshire commission on law
17 enforcement accountability, community and transparency. Any unexpended amount of said
18 appropriation shall lapse to the general fund on June 30, 2023. The governor is hereby authorized to
19 draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

20 152 Contingency. If an independent statewide entity to receive complaints alleging misconduct
21 regarding all sworn and elected law enforcement officers as a result of recommendation #16 in the
22 final report issued by the New Hampshire commission on law enforcement accountability,
23 community, and transparency becomes law by July 1, 2022, then section 151 of this act shall take
24 effect July 1, 2022. If such an entity does not become law by July 1, 2022, then section 151 of this
25 act shall not take effect.

26 153 Effective Date. Section 151 of this act shall take effect as provided in section 152 of this act.

27 154 Department of Safety; Radio Infrastructure Equipment Purchases; Procurement.

28 I. The department of safety shall, in collaboration with the department of administrative
29 services, establish standards for radio infrastructure-related hardware, computers, software, related
30 licenses, media, documentation, support and maintenance services, and other related services.

31 II. Prior to an agency's issuance of a solicitation for the purchase of radio infrastructure-
32 related computer or radio hardware, software, related licenses, media, documentation, support and
33 maintenance services, and other related services including a request for proposal, request for
34 purchase, or other procurement documentation, the agency shall consult with and seek approval
35 from the department of safety, division of emergency services and communications.

1 III. The department of safety, division of emergency services and communications, shall
2 annually review and set dollar, or other, limits for purchases and contracts that require approval
3 from the director of the division of emergency services and communications before proceeding.

4 IV. For purposes of this section, "agency" shall have the same meaning as in RSA 21-I:11,
5 II(b), but shall not include:

- 6 (a) The university system of New Hampshire.
7 (b) The court systems.
8 (c) The legislature, secretary of state, and the state reporter.
9 (d) The retirement system.
10 (e) The community college system of New Hampshire.

11 155 New Paragraph; Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; Definitions; Amend RSA 611-B:1 by
12 inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

13 II-a. "Associate medical examiner" means the licensed physician certified by the American
14 Board of Pathology as a qualified pathologist and appointed pursuant to RSA 611-B:3-a.

15 156 New Section; Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; Associate Medical Examiner. Amend
16 RSA 611-B by inserting after section 3 the following new section:

17 611-B:3-a Associate Medical Examiner. There is hereby established within the office of the chief
18 medical examiner the position of associate medical examiner. The associate medical examiner shall
19 be appointed in the same manner as the chief medical examiner as provided in RSA 611-B:2, and
20 shall be a licensed physician, certified by the American Board of Pathology as a qualified pathologist,
21 with training and experience in forensic medicine. The associate medical examiner shall serve under
22 the professional direction and supervision of the chief medical examiner and deputy chief medical
23 examiner and shall act as the chief medical examiner whenever the chief medical examiner and
24 deputy chief medical examiner are absent, or unable to act for any cause.

25 157 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; Acting Chief Medical Examiner. Amend RSA 611-B:4
26 to read as follows:

27 611-B:4 Acting Chief Medical Examiner. The chief medical examiner may designate in writing
28 an acting chief medical examiner who shall be a licensed physician, certified by the American Board
29 of Pathology as a qualified pathologist with training and experience in forensic medicine. The acting
30 chief medical examiner shall act as the chief medical examiner whenever the chief medical
31 examiner, ~~and the~~ deputy chief medical examiner, **and the associate medical examiner** are
32 absent, or unable to act ~~from~~ **for** any cause.

33 158 Department of Justice; Director of Diversity and Community Outreach; Position
34 Established. There is established within the department of justice an unclassified position of
35 director of diversity and community outreach. The director of diversity and community outreach
36 shall be qualified to hold the position by reason of education and experience, and shall be appointed
37 to serve for a term of 5 years. The position shall assist the attorney general and deputy attorney

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1 general to establish goals and milestones towards creating a more diverse, inclusive, and culturally
2 aware law enforcement community through efforts that increase equity and cultural awareness
3 among state, county, local prosecution, law enforcement and diverse communities to foster positive
4 relationships, understanding and respect. The salary of the director of diversity and community
5 outreach shall be determined after assessment and review of the appropriate letter grade allocation
6 in RSA 94:1-a, I for positions which shall be conducted pursuant to RSA 94:1-d and RSA 14:14-c.
7 Funding shall be appropriated from expenditure class 014 within accounting unit 02-20-20-200010-
8 2601.

9 159 New Paragraph; Department of Justice; Attorney General Position Established. Amend
10 RSA 21-M:3 by inserting after paragraph XII the following new paragraph:

11 XIII. The attorney general, subject to the approval of the governor and council, may appoint
12 a permanent director of diversity and community outreach, within the limits of the appropriation
13 made for the appointment, who shall hold office for a term of 5 years. Any vacancy in such position
14 may be filled for the unexpired term. The director of diversity and community outreach may be
15 removed only as provided by RSA 4:1.

16 160 Effective Date. Sections 158-159 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2023.

17 161 Judicial Council; Expenditures for Termination of Parental Rights Services. In the event
18 that expenditures for termination of parental rights services are greater than amounts appropriated
19 in the operating budget, the judicial council may request, with prior approval of the fiscal committee
20 of the general court, that the governor and council authorize additional funding. For funds
21 requested and approved, the governor is authorized to draw a warrant from any money in the
22 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

23 162 College Tuition Savings Plan; Advisory Commission. Amend the introductory paragraph in
24 RSA 195-H:2, I(a) to read as follows:

25 I.(a) (There is established the New Hampshire college tuition savings plan advisory
26 commission which shall ensure the proper administration and management of the savings plan. The
27 advisory commission shall ensure that the savings plan complies with the requirements of section
28 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any related federal law applicable to the
29 savings plan. The commission shall also be responsible for ensuring the proper administration,
30 implementation, and management of the New Hampshire excellence in higher education endowment
31 trust fund established in RSA 6:38, and the governor's scholarship program and fund established in
32 ~~[RSA 4-C:31-34]~~ ***RSA 195-H:11-14. The commission, by a majority vote, may transfer funds***
33 ***between the New Hampshire excellence in higher education endowment trust fund and the***
34 ***governor's scholarship fund.*** The commission shall consist of the following members:

35 163 New Subdivision; Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund. Amend RSA 195-H by
36 inserting after section 10 the following new subdivision:

37 Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund

1 195-H:11 Definitions. In this subdivision:

2 I. "Eligible institution" means a postsecondary educational institution or training program
3 within the university system of New Hampshire as defined in RSA 187-A, a postsecondary
4 educational institution within the community college system of New Hampshire as defined in RSA
5 188-F, or a private postsecondary institution approved to operate in this state that:

6 (a) Is approved by the higher education commission pursuant to RSA 21-N:8-a and
7 accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education; and

8 (b) Is a not-for-profit organization eligible to receive federal Title IV funds.

9 II. "Eligible student" means a first-year, full-time, Pell Grant-eligible student who meets the
10 eligibility and residency requirements of RSA 195-H:13. "First-year" means a student who has never
11 enrolled in an eligible institution.

12 III. "Full-time" means an enrolled student who is carrying an academic course load that is
13 determined to be full-time by the eligible institution based on a standard applicable to all students
14 enrolled in a particular educational program. The student's course load may include any
15 combination of courses, work, research, or special studies that the eligible institution considers
16 sufficient to classify the student as full-time.

17 195-H:12 Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund Established.

18 I. There is hereby established the governor's scholarship program and the governor's
19 scholarship fund. The program and fund shall be administered by the commission. The fund shall
20 be kept distinct and separate from all other funds and shall be used to provide scholarships which a
21 recipient shall apply to the costs of an education at an eligible institution. The funds shall be
22 distributed to an eligible institution based on the number of eligible students awarded a scholarship
23 and upon receipt of a request for reimbursement for such scholarship funds accompanied by
24 appropriate documentation.

25 II. The state treasurer shall credit to the fund any appropriation relating to the governor's
26 scholarship fund made in each fiscal year to the commission. The state treasurer shall invest the
27 fund in accordance with RSA 6:8. Any earnings shall be added to the fund.

28 III. All moneys in the fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the
29 commission for the purposes of this subdivision.

30 IV. The commission may institute promotional programs and solicit and receive cash gifts or
31 other donations for the purpose of supporting educational scholarships from the fund. The
32 commission shall not solicit or accept real property.

33 V. All gifts, grants, and donations of any kind shall be credited to the fund.

34 195-H:13 Eligibility.

35 I. Any person who meets the following requirements shall be an eligible student:

36 (a) A person shall meet the residency requirements of RSA 193:12; be a graduate of a
37 New Hampshire high school, public academy, chartered public school, New Hampshire private

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1 preparatory high school, a high school-level home education program as defined in RSA 193-A; have
2 received a New Hampshire high school equivalency certificate; have completed at least 3 years of
3 high school in this state; be pursuing a certificate, associate, or bachelor degree at an eligible
4 institution in this state; and be eligible to receive a Pell grant; or

5 (b) A person shall be a graduate of a preparatory high school outside of this state while a
6 dependent of a parent or legal guardian who is a legal resident of this state and who has custody of
7 the dependent; or

8 (c) A person shall have a parent or guardian who has served in or has retired from the
9 United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard within the last 4 years and is a
10 resident of this state; or

11 (d) A person shall be a graduate of a high school, public academy, chartered public high
12 school, or a high school-level home education program outside of this state but have maintained his
13 or her primary residence in this state for not less than 5 years preceding the date of application for a
14 scholarship.

15 II. A person shall meet the qualifications for academic performance or work experience as
16 established by the commission.

17 III. A person shall not have been adjudicated delinquent or convicted or pled guilty or nolo
18 contendere to any felonies or any second or subsequent alcohol or drug-related offenses under the
19 laws of this or any other state, or under the laws of the United States, except that an otherwise
20 eligible person who has been adjudicated delinquent or has been convicted or pled guilty or nolo
21 contendere to a second or subsequent alcohol or drug-related misdemeanor offense shall be eligible
22 or continue to be eligible for a scholarship after the expiration of one academic year from the date of
23 adjudication, conviction, or plea.

24 195-H:14 Procedures

25 I. All scholarship funds shall be distributed to the eligible student by the eligible institution.
26 The institution shall include the scholarship in the student's financial aid package and may seek
27 subsequent reimbursement. The state shall provide the reimbursements twice per year to each
28 eligible institution for the number of eligible students enrolled in the current semester or term who
29 are receiving a scholarship. The institution shall submit the list of scholarship recipients to the
30 commission or its designee no later than November 30 and April 30 of each academic year, and shall
31 be reimbursed within 30 days of submission.

32 II. An eligible student may receive a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 per year provided
33 he or she maintains at least a 2.0 grade point average. An eligible student who earned the New
34 Hampshire scholar designation at the time of high school graduation may receive a scholarship in
35 the amount of \$2,000 per year provided he or she maintains at least a 2.5 grade point average. The
36 eligible institution shall not reduce any merit or need-based grant aid that would have otherwise

1 been provided to the eligible student. An eligible student may receive an annual scholarship for a
2 maximum of 4 years.

3 III. In the event the state does not reimburse the eligible institution for scholarship amounts
4 paid to an eligible student receiving an award, the eligible institution shall agree not to seek
5 additional payments from the eligible student and to absorb the loss of funds without any
6 consequence to the eligible student.

7 IV. The commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to awarding and
8 disbursing scholarship funds to an eligible student enrolled in an eligible institution.

9 V. An eligible student, who initially attends a community college and transfers directly to an
10 eligible institution, without a break in attendance, shall remain an eligible student for a maximum
11 of 4 years of total eligibility.

12 VI. The commission may hire staff or enter into a contract for services or personnel
13 necessary to administer the program.

14 164 Application of Receipts; Governor's Scholarship Program and Fund. Amend RSA 6:12,
15 I(b)(336) to read as follows:

16 (336) Moneys deposited into the governor's scholarship fund established in ~~[RSA 4-~~
17 ~~C:32]~~ **RSA 195-H:12.**

18 165 Allied Health Professionals; Re-ordering of Definitions. RSA 328-F:2 is repealed and
19 reenacted to read as follows:

20 328-F:2 Definitions. In this chapter:

21 I. "Athletic training" means "athletic training" as defined in RSA 326-G:1, III.

22 II. "Board of directors" means the chairpersons or their appointees of all the governing
23 boards which shall be responsible for the administrative operation of the office of licensed allied
24 health professionals.

25 III. "Genetic counseling" means genetic counseling as defined in RSA 326-K:1.

26 IV. "Governing boards" means individual licensing boards of athletic trainers, occupational
27 therapy assistants, occupational therapists, recreational therapists, physical therapists, physical
28 therapist assistants, respiratory care practitioners, speech-language pathologists and hearing care
29 providers, and genetic counselors.

30 V "Hearing care providers" mean audiologists and hearing aid dealers as defined in RSA
31 326-F:1.

32 VI. "Occupational therapy" means "occupational therapy" as defined in RSA 326-C:1, III.

33 VII. "Office of licensed allied health professionals" means an agency of multiple governing
34 boards in professions of the allied health field.

35 VIII. "Physical therapy" or "physiotherapy" means "physical therapy" or "physiotherapy" as
36 defined in RSA 328-A:2, IX.

37 IX. "Recreational therapy" means "recreational therapy" as defined in RSA 326-J:1, III.

1 X. "Respiratory care" means "respiratory care" as defined in RSA 326-E:1, X.

2 XI. "Speech-language pathology" means "speech-language pathology" as defined in RSA
3 326-F:1.

4 166 Allied Health Professionals; Governing Boards; Hearing Care Providers. Amend RSA 328-
5 F:3, I to read as follows:

6 I. There shall be established governing boards of athletic trainers, occupational therapists,
7 recreational therapists, respiratory care practitioners, physical therapists, speech-language
8 pathologists, **hearing care providers**, and genetic counselors.

9 167 Allied Health Professionals; Governing Boards; Membership. Amend RSA 328-F:4, I to
10 read as follows:

11 I. Each governing board shall be composed of 5 persons, each to be appointed by the
12 governor with the approval of the council, to a term of 3 years, ~~except the speech-language~~
13 ~~pathology and hearing care provider governing board which shall be composed of 6~~
14 ~~members, each to be appointed by the governor with the approval of the council, to a term~~
15 ~~of 3 years.~~ Members shall serve until the expiration of the term for which they have been
16 appointed or until their successors have been appointed and qualified. No board member shall be
17 appointed to more than 2 consecutive terms, provided that for this purpose only a period actually
18 served which exceeds 1/2 of the 3-year term shall be deemed a full term. Any professional members
19 of all governing boards shall maintain current and unrestricted New Hampshire licenses.

20 168 Speech Language Pathology and Hearing Care Provider Governing Board; Membership.
21 Amend RSA 328-F:4, VIII to read as follows:

22 VIII. The speech-language pathology **and hearing care provider** governing board shall
23 consist of 4 licensed speech-language pathologists who have actively engaged in the practice of
24 speech-language pathology in this state for at least 3 years, **one licensed individual in the field**
25 **of hearing care who has actively engaged in the practice**, and one public member. At least
26 one speech-language pathologist shall be employed in an educational setting and at least one
27 employed in a clinical setting.

28 169 New Paragraph; Allied Health Professionals; Governing Boards; Duties; Registration.
29 Amend RSA 328-F:5 by inserting after paragraph I-a the following new paragraph:

30 I-b. Issue initial registrations, conditional initial registrations, renewed registrations,
31 conditionally renewed registrations, reinstated registrations, and conditionally reinstated
32 registrations to businesses who are eligible if authorized to do so by the board's practice act.

33 170 New Paragraph; Allied Health Professionals; Governing Boards; Duties; Businesses.
34 Amend RSA 328-F:5 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

35 II-a. Investigate registered businesses and take necessary disciplinary action against them.

36 171 New Paragraph; Allied Health Professionals; Governing Boards; Rulemaking; Hearing Aid
37 Dealers. Amend RSA 328-F:11 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

1 III. The speech-language pathology and hearing care provider governing board shall adopt
2 rules on eligibility requirements and procedures for the issuance of registrations to hearing aid
3 dealers.

4 172 Allied Health Professionals; Governing Board; Fees. Amend RSA 328-F:15, I to read as
5 follows:

6 I. The board of directors shall establish fees for:

7 (a) The processing of applications for initial and reinstatement of licensure, [~~or~~]
8 certification, **or registration**.

9 (b) Initial licenses, [~~and~~] certifications, **and registrations**.

10 (c) Renewal of licenses, [~~and~~] certifications, **and registrations**.

11 (d) Late filing of applications for license renewal and renewal of certification.

12 (e) Reinstatement of licenses, [~~and~~] certifications, **and registrations**.

13 (f) Transcribing and transferring records.

14 (g) The costs of a hearing by any governing board at which the issue is denial of, or
15 imposition of conditions on, an initial license or certification; including the per diem and mileage of
16 board members attending the hearing and the cost of a shorthand court reporter if one is used to
17 record the hearing.

18 (h) **The registration of hearing aid dealers.**

19 173 Allied Health Professionals; Governing Boards; Initial Licenses, Certifications, and
20 Registrations. Amend RSA 328-F:18, IV to read as follows:

21 IV. Initial licenses, **certifications, and registrations**, including conditional licenses,
22 **certifications, and registrations** that are the first license, **certificate, or registration** issued to
23 the individual **or hearing aid dealer**, and provisional licenses, **certifications, and registrations**
24 shall be:

25 (a) Signed and dated by the chairperson of the governing board issuing them **or his or**
26 **her designee**.

27 (b) Numbered consecutively and recorded.

28 174 Allied Health Professionals; License Provisions; Renewal. Amend RSA 328-F:19 to read as
29 follows:

30 328-F:19 Renewal.

31 I. Initial licenses and renewals shall be valid for 2 years, except that timely and complete
32 application for license renewal by eligible applicants shall continue the validity of the licenses being
33 renewed until the governing board has acted on the renewal application. Licenses issued pursuant
34 to RSA 328-A, RSA 326-G, and RSA 326-J shall expire in even-numbered years and licenses issued
35 pursuant to RSA 326-C, RSA 326-E, RSA 326-F, and RSA 326-K shall expire in odd-numbered years.

36 **I-a. A license issued to a hearing care provider shall expire at 12:01 a.m. on July 1**
37 **of the odd-numbered year next succeeding its date of issuance. The governing board shall**

1 *notify the licensee, on or before May 1 of the renewal year, but failure of any licensee to*
2 *receive this notification shall not relieve him or her of the obligation to comply with the*
3 *rules of the governing board and this section. Timely submission of renewal applications*
4 *shall be evidenced by postmark or, for applications delivered by hand, by date stamp or*
5 *other record made at the time of delivery.*

6 II. Each governing board shall renew the licenses of applicants who meet the eligibility
7 requirements and complete the application procedure.

8 III. Applicants *whose licenses expire on December 31 of the renewal year* shall submit
9 completed applications for renewal on or before December 1 of the renewal year. Completed
10 renewal applications submitted between December 2 and December 31 of the renewal year shall be
11 accompanied by a late filing fee. Licenses shall lapse when completed renewal applications have not
12 been filed by December 31 of the renewal year, and their holders are not authorized to practice until
13 the licenses have been reinstated.

14 IV. The governing boards shall provide licensees *whose licenses expire on December 31*
15 *of the renewal year*, on or before November 1 of their renewal years, with materials needed to
16 complete their renewal applications, but failure of any licensees to receive these materials shall not
17 relieve them of the obligation to comply with the rules of the governing boards and this section.
18 Timeliness of submission of renewal applications shall be evidenced by postmark or, for applications
19 delivered by hand, by date stamp or other record made at the time of delivery.

20 V. Upon the request of a licensee who is a member of any reserve component of the armed
21 forces of the United States or the national guard and is called to active duty, the governing board
22 shall place the person's license on inactive status. The license may be reactivated within one year of
23 the licensee's release from active status by payment of the renewal fee and with proof of completion
24 of the most current continuing education requirement unless still within the renewal period.

25 175 Allied Health Professionals; License Provisions; Obligation to Report. Amend RSA 328-
26 F:25, I and II to read as follows:

27 I. Persons and entities regulated by the state, including but not limited to, licensees,
28 certified individuals, **registrants**, insurance companies, health care organizations, and health care
29 facilities shall report to the board of directors and the appropriate governing board any criminal
30 conviction of a licensee, [or] certified individual, **registered hearing aid dealer**, or any
31 determination by a regulatory agency indicating that a licensee, [or] certified individual, **or**
32 **registered hearing aid dealer** has violated this chapter or the practice act of his or her governing
33 board. Persons and entities so reporting shall be immune from civil liability if the report is made in
34 good faith.

35 II. Every individual, agency, facility, institution or organization regulated by the state and
36 employing licensed allied health professionals *or using the services of a registered hearing aid*
37 *dealer* within the state shall report to the appropriate governing board within 30 days any act by an

1 individual licensed or certified by the board that appears to constitute misconduct. Persons and
2 entities so reporting shall be immune from civil liability if the report is made in good faith.

3 176 Allied Health Professionals; Unauthorized Practice. Amend RSA 328-F:27, II to read as
4 follows:

5 II. Practice of an allied health profession by any person who is not licensed [~~or~~], certified, **or**
6 **registered** to practice such profession shall constitute unauthorized practice. A business which
7 holds itself out, through advertising or in any other way, as providing an allied health service but
8 does not have available to supervise its services an allied health professional licensed [~~or~~], certified,
9 **or registered** to provide the services which the business purports to offer, is engaged in
10 unauthorized practice.

11 177 Speech Language Pathology Practice. Amend the chapter heading of RSA 326-F to read as
12 follows:

13 CHAPTER 326-F

14 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND HEARING CARE PROVIDERS PRACTICE

15 178 Speech-Language Pathology and Hearing Care Providers Practice; Definitions. RSA 326-
16 F:1 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

17 326-F:1 Definitions. In this chapter and RSA 328-F:
18 I. "Audiologist" means any person who renders or offers to render to the public any service
19 involving the application of principles, methods, and procedures for the measurement of testing,
20 identification, appraisal, consultation, counseling, instruction, and research related to the
21 development and disorders of hearing and vestibular function for the purpose of diagnosing,
22 designing, and implementing programs for the amelioration of such disorders and conditions.

23 II. "Audiology" means the application of principles, methods, and procedures related to the
24 development and disorders of human communication, which disorders shall include any and all
25 conditions whether of organic or nonorganic origin, that impede the normal processes of human
26 communication and balance including, but not limited to, disorders of hearing, vestibular function,
27 and central auditory processing.

28 III. "Board" means the governing board of speech-language pathologists and hearing care
29 providers established in RSA 328-F.

30 IV. "Hearing aid" means any wearable instrument or device designed for or offered for the
31 purpose of or represented as aiding or compensating for impaired human hearing and any parts or
32 attachments, including ear molds, but excluding batteries and cords or accessories thereto, or
33 equipment, devices, and attachments used in conjunction with services provided by a public utility
34 company.

35 V. "Hearing aid dealer" means any person engaged in the testing of human hearing for the
36 purpose of selecting, fitting, or otherwise dealing in hearing aids.

1 VI. "Otolaryngologist" means a physician licensed in the state of New Hampshire who
2 specializes in medical problems of the ear, nose, and throat, and is eligible for qualification by the
3 American Board of Otolaryngology as an otolaryngologist.

4 VII. "Practice of audiology" means, but shall not be limited to:

5 (a) Screening, identifying, assessing, interpreting, diagnosing, rehabilitating, and
6 preventing hearing disorders.

7 (b) Rendering to individuals or groups of individuals, who are suspected of having
8 hearing disorders, basic and comprehensive audiological and vestibular site-of-lesion tests, including
9 otoscopic examinations, electrophysiologic test procedures, and auditory evoked assessment.

10 (c) Rendering basic and comprehensive auditory and vestibular habilitative and
11 rehabilitative services, including aural rehabilitative assessment and therapy, vestibular
12 rehabilitative assessment and therapy, and speech and language screening.

13 (d) Providing basic and comprehensive audiological and psychoacoustic evaluations for
14 the purpose of determining candidacy for amplification or assistive alerting/listening devices;
15 providing tinnitus evaluations and therapy; providing hearing aid fitting and orientation; taking ear
16 impressions; and providing hearing aid product dispensing, repair, and modification.

17 (e) Providing preoperative evaluation and selection of cochlear implant candidacy and
18 post-implant rehabilitation.

19 (f) Providing occupational hearing conservation.

20 VIII. "Practice of speech-language pathology" means, but shall not be limited to:

21 (a) Screening, identifying, assessing, interpreting, diagnosing, rehabilitating, and
22 preventing disorders of speech and language.

23 (b) Screening, identifying, assessing, interpreting, diagnosing, and rehabilitating
24 disorders of oral-pharyngeal function and related disorders.

25 (c) Screening, identifying, assessing, interpreting, diagnosing, and rehabilitating
26 cognitive communication disorders.

27 (d) Assessing, selecting, and developing augmentative and alternative communication
28 systems and providing training in their use.

29 (e) Providing aural rehabilitation and related counseling services to deaf or hard of
30 hearing individuals and their families.

31 (f) Enhancing speech-language proficiency and communication effectiveness.

32 (g) Screening of hearing and other factors for the purpose of speech-language evaluation
33 or the initial identification of individuals with other communication disorders.

34 IX. "Rental or selling of hearing aids" means the selection, adaptation, and sale or rental of
35 hearing aids. Also included is the making of impressions for ear molds and instruction pertaining to
36 the use of hearing aids.

1 X. "Sell" or "sale" means any transfer of title or of the right of use by sale, conditional sales
2 contract, lease bailments, hire-purchase or any other means, excluding wholesale transactions of
3 dealers and distributors.

4 XI. "Speech-language assistant" means any person certified by the board who meets
5 minimum qualifications established by the board which are less than those established by this
6 chapter as necessary for licensing as a speech-language pathologist, and who does not act
7 independently but works under the direction and supervision of a speech-language pathologist
8 licensed under this chapter.

9 XII. "Speech-language pathologist" means any person who renders or offers to render to the
10 public any service involving the application of principles, methods, and procedures for the
11 measurement of testing, identification, appraisal, consultation, counseling, instruction and research
12 related to the development and disorders of speech, voice, or language for the purpose of diagnosing,
13 designing, and implementing programs for the amelioration of such disorders and conditions.

14 XIII. "Speech-language pathology" means the application of principles, methods, and
15 procedures related to the development and disorders of human communication, which disorders shall
16 include any and all conditions whether of organic or nonorganic origin, that impede the normal
17 process of human communication including, but not limited to, disorders and related disorders of
18 speech, articulation, fluency, voice, verbal and written language, auditory comprehension, cognition,
19 communication, swallowing, and oral, pharyngeal or laryngeal sensorimotor competencies.

20 179 New Paragraph; Speech Language Pathology and Hearing Care Providers Practice;
21 Eligibility for Initial Licensure. Amend RSA 326-F:3 by inserting after paragraph II the following
22 new paragraph:

23 III. To be eligible for initial licensure as an audiologist an applicant shall:

24 (a) Demonstrate sufficient evidence of good professional character and reliability to
25 satisfy the board that the applicant shall faithfully and conscientiously avoid professional
26 misconduct and otherwise adhere to the requirements of this chapter.

27 (b) Possess at least a master's degree in audiology from an educational institution
28 approved by the board which consists of course work approved pursuant to rules adopted by the
29 board pursuant to RSA 541-A.

30 (c) Complete a supervised postgraduate professional experience at an educational
31 institution or its cooperation programs, approved pursuant to rules adopted by the board pursuant to
32 RSA 541-A.

33 (d) Pass an examination specified by the board in rules adopted under RSA 541-A.

34 (e) Complete a supervised postgraduate professional experience.

35 (f) If applicable, submit proof of licensure in another state in which the licensure
36 requirements are equivalent to or greater than those in this chapter.

1 180 New Paragraph; Speech Language Pathology and Hearing Care Providers Practice;
2 Rulemaking. Amend RSA 326-F:5 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

3 VIII. The sale and fitting of hearing aids.

4 181 Speech Language Pathology and Hearing Care Providers Practice; Eligibility for Renewal of
5 Licenses. Amend RSA 326-F:6, I to read as follows:

6 I. *For speech-language pathologists*, have completed 30 hours of continuing education
7 which meet the requirements established by the board through rulemaking pursuant to RSA 541-A
8 and at least 50 percent of which are directly related to the practice of speech-language pathology.
9 *For audiologists, have completed 20 hours of continuing education which meet the*
10 *requirements established by the board through rulemaking pursuant to RSA 541-A.*

11 182 New Paragraphs; Speech-Language Pathology and Hearing Care Providers Practice;
12 Professional Identification. Amend RSA 326-F:8 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new
13 paragraphs:

14 V. No person shall practice audiology or represent oneself as an audiologist in this state,
15 unless such person is licensed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

16 VI. No person shall represent oneself or use the following words to represent oneself:
17 audiologist, audiology, audiometry, audiometrist, audiological, audiometrics, hearing therapy,
18 hearing therapist, hearing clinic, hearing aid audiologist, or any other variation or synonym which
19 expresses, employs, or implies these terms or functions unless the person has been duly licensed as
20 an audiologist.

21 183 New Sections; Registration of Hearing Aid Dealers; Temporary Licensure for Audiologists;
22 Audiologists From Other Jurisdictions; Disclosure to Customers; Unsolicited Home Sales Prohibited;
23 Return of Hearing Aid; Deceptive Advertising Prohibited. Amend RSA 326-F by inserting after
24 section 8 the following new sections:

25 326-F:9 Registration of Hearing Aid Dealers Required. No person shall engage in the business
26 of selling or offering for rent hearing aids unless such person is registered in accordance with this
27 chapter and unless the registration of such person is current and valid. The fee for an initial
28 registration under this section shall not exceed \$300. This section includes the selling or renting of
29 hearing aids by mail in this state by a person outside the state. Registration certificates shall be
30 renewed biennially on or before June 30 upon payment of a renewal fee.

31 326-F:10 Temporary Licensure for Audiologists.

32 I. A temporary license may be granted for up to 120 days to a person who has moved to this
33 state from another jurisdiction, if the person holds an audiologist's license in the other jurisdiction
34 and the other jurisdiction's requirements for licensure are greater than or equal to the requirements
35 in this state, and the person has applied for a license under this chapter.

36 II. A temporary license issued under this section shall expire no later than 120 days after
37 issuance. The date shall be stated on the license.

1 326-F:11 Audiologists From Other Jurisdictions; Licensure. The board may waive licensure
2 requirements for an applicant who:

3 I. Is licensed by another jurisdiction where the requirements for licensure are greater than
4 or equal to those required in this state; and

5 II. Is practicing audiology 20 days or less in New Hampshire in any calendar year.

6 326-F:12 Hearing Aid Dealer and/or Audiologist Disclosure to Customers.

7 I. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist shall sell a hearing aid without presenting the
8 purchaser an itemized receipt, which shall include the following:

9 (a) The name and address and signature of the purchaser.

10 (b) The date of the sale.

11 (c) The name and the regular place of business of the hearing aid dealer or dealer's
12 registration number or of the audiologist or audiologist's license number, and signature of the
13 registrant or licensee.

14 (d) The make, model, serial number, and purchase price of the hearing aid and the
15 terms of the warranty.

16 (e) An itemization of the total purchase price, including but not limited to the cost of the
17 aid, ear mold, and batteries and other accessories and any other services.

18 (f) A statement as to whether the hearing aid is "new," "used" or "reconditioned."

19 (g) The complete terms of the sale, including a clear and precise statement of the 30-day
20 money back guarantee required under RSA 326-F:14.

21 (h) The name, address and telephone number of the consumer protection and antitrust
22 bureau, division of public protection, department of justice, with a statement that complaints which
23 arise with respect to the transaction may be submitted in writing to the consumer protection and
24 antitrust bureau.

25 (i) The following statements in 10 point type or larger: 1) "This hearing aid will not
26 restore normal hearing nor will it prevent further hearing loss;" 2) "You have the right to cancel this
27 purchase or rental for any reason within 30 days after receiving the hearing aid."

28 II. Each registrant or licensee shall keep records of every customer to whom such person
29 renders services or sells hearing aids, including a copy of the receipt as specified under paragraph I,
30 a record of services provided, any correspondence to or from a customer and any records required
31 under the rules for the hearing aid industry as promulgated by the United States Federal Trade
32 Commission on July 20, 1965, or as amended, or any rules for the hearing aid industry promulgated
33 by the United States Food and Drug Administration. These records shall be preserved for at least 3
34 years after the date of transaction.

35 326-F:13 Unsolicited Home Sales Prohibited. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist, employee or
36 agent thereof, shall canvass either in person or by telephone from house to house for the purpose of

1 selling or renting a hearing aid without prior request from the prospective customer, a relative or
2 friend of the prospective customer.

3 326-F:14 Return of Hearing Aid; Cancellation Fee. No hearing aid shall be sold to any person
4 unless accompanied by a 30-day written money back guarantee that if the person returns the
5 hearing aid in the same condition, ordinary wear and tear excluded, as when purchased, within 30
6 days from the date of delivery, the hearing aid dealer or audiologist may be entitled to a cancellation
7 fee of 5 percent of the purchase price. In computing the actual purchase price, all rebates, discounts,
8 and other similar allowances provided to the seller shall be considered. For the purpose of this
9 section, any consumer who initiates the return of a hearing aid within said 30-day period shall be in
10 compliance with this section. The addressing of any claimed deficiency or return shall be resolved
11 within 90 days from date of delivery.

12 326-F:15 Deceptive Advertising Prohibited.

13 I. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist, or employee or agent thereof, shall use or cause to be
14 used or promote the use of any advertising matter, promotional literature, testimonial, guarantee,
15 warranty, label, brand, insignia, or other representation, however disseminated or published, which
16 is misleading, deceptive, or untruthful. All advertising by mail which offers free hearing testing or
17 other services by a hearing aid dealer or audiologist shall clearly state in such advertising that the
18 offers are made by a hearing aid dealer or audiologist.

19 II. No hearing aid dealer, or employee or agent thereof, shall represent that the services or
20 advice of an individual licensed to practice medicine or of an individual certified as an audiologist
21 will be used or made available in the selection, fitting, adjustment, maintenance, or repair of hearing
22 aids where that is not true, or use or incorporate in any title or designation the words, "doctor,"
23 "otologist," "clinic," "clinical audiologist," "audiologist," "state licensed clinic," "state certified," "state
24 approved," "state registered," "certified hearing aid audiologist," or any term, abbreviation, or symbol
25 which would give the false impression that one is being treated medically or audiologically or that
26 the registrant's services have been recommended by the state.

27 III. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist, or employee or agent thereof, shall use any
28 advertisement or any other representation which has the effect of misleading or deceiving
29 purchasers or prospective purchasers in the belief that any hearing aid or device, or part or
30 accessory thereof, is a new invention or involves a new mechanical or scientific principle when such
31 is not a fact.

32 IV. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist, or employee or agent thereof, shall state or imply
33 that the use of any hearing aid will restore hearing to normal, or preserve hearing, or prevent or
34 retard the progression of a hearing impairment or make any false or misleading or medically or
35 audiologically unsupportable claims regarding the efficacy or benefits of hearing aids.

1 V. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist, or employee or agent thereof, shall advertise a
2 particular model, type, or kind of hearing aid when the offer is not a bona fide effort to sell the
3 product so offered as advertised.

4 VI. No hearing aid dealer or audiologist, or employee or agent thereof, shall advertise that a
5 hearing aid will be beneficial to persons with hearing loss, regardless of the type of loss. No such
6 dealer, employee, or agent shall advertise that a hearing aid will enable persons with hearing loss to
7 consistently distinguish and understand speech sounds in noisy situations.

8 VII. No hearing aid shall be sold to any person unless the packaging containing the hearing
9 aid carries the following disclaimer in 10 point type or larger: "This hearing aid will not restore
10 normal hearing nor will it prevent further hearing loss."

11 326-F:16 Out-of-State Sales Regulated.

12 I. No person shall conduct or operate a business outside of the state for the sale at retail of
13 hearing aids to individuals within the state unless such business is registered with a permit issued
14 by the board.

15 II. The board shall issue a permit to such out-of-state business if the business discloses and
16 provides proof:

17 (a) That the business is in compliance with all applicable laws and rules in the state in
18 which the business is located;

19 (b) Of the operating locations and the names and titles of all principal corporate officers;

20 (c) That the business complies with all lawful directions and requests for information
21 from the board of all states in which it conducts business; and

22 (d) That the business agrees in writing to comply with all New Hampshire laws and
23 rules relating to the sale or dispensing of hearing aids.

24 III. The board shall assess fees as established by rules adopted by the board, pursuant to
25 RSA 541-A, for out-of-state hearing aid sales companies.

26 184 General Administration of Regulatory Boards and Commissions; Reciprocity Information.
27 Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 332-G:12, I to read as follows:

28 I. All boards or commissions~~[- including the board of hearing care providers established in~~
29 ~~RSA 137-F:3,]~~ shall post information on their website relative to reciprocal licensure or certification
30 for persons holding a current and valid license or certification for the practice of the regulated
31 profession in another state. Such information shall include a list of the states which the board or
32 commission has determined to have license or certification requirements equal to, or greater than,
33 the requirements of this state. The posting shall also list states with which the board or commission
34 has:

35 185 Repeals. The following are repealed:

36 I. RSA 137-F, relative to hearing care providers.

37 II. RSA 310-A:1-a, II(a), relative to hearing care providers.

1 186 Transition; Rules; Hearing Care Providers.

2 I. The rules adopted for hearing care providers under the former RSA 137-F in effect on the
3 effective date of this act shall, to the extent practicable, continue and be effective and apply to
4 hearing care providers until they expire or are amended or repealed.

5 II. Registrations or licenses of hearing care providers under the former RSA 137-F shall be
6 valid until they expire or are revoked or suspended as provided in RSA 326-F as amended by section
7 183 of this act.

8 187 New Chapter; Department of Energy. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 12-O the
9 following new chapter:

10 CHAPTER 12-P
11 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

12 12-P:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

13 I. "Commission" means the public utilities commission.

14 II. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of energy.

15 III. "Department" means the department of energy

16 12-P:2 Establishment; Purpose.

17 I. There shall be a department of energy under the executive direction of a commissioner of
18 energy and consisting of the divisions of administration, policy and programs, enforcement, and
19 regulatory support.

20 II. The purpose of this chapter is to improve the administration of state government by
21 providing unified direction of policies, programs, and personnel in the field of energy and utilities,
22 making possible increased efficiency and economies from integrated administration and operation of
23 the various energy and utility related functions of the state government.

24 III. In addition to its other functions, it shall be the duty of the department of energy to
25 provide all necessary administrative support to the public utilities commission to assist the
26 commission in carrying out its regulatory and adjudicative functions.

27 IV. The department shall have the authority to investigate any matter that may come before
28 the public utilities commission and to appear before the commission to advocate for the department's
29 position and for the purposes of providing a complete record for consideration by the commission.

30 12-P:3 General Provisions.

31 I. Upon the recommendation of the commissioner after consultation with division directors
32 concerned, the governor and council are authorized to approve revisions in internal administrative
33 departmental organization as the governor and council find from time to time may improve or make
34 more economical the administration of the department.

35 II. The department of energy is authorized to work with the department of business and
36 economic affairs and the department of administrative services to coordinate the implementation of
37 the establishment of the department, and to transfer appropriations and create the proper

1 expenditure lines, if needed, for the establishment of their respective operations, including but not
2 limited to the relocation of personnel, work stations, books, papers, personnel record files, and
3 equipment, with the approval of the governor and council and of the director of personnel.

4 12-P:4 Commissioner; Deputy Commissioner; Directors

5 I. The commissioner of the department of energy shall be appointed by the governor, with
6 the consent of the council, and shall serve for a term of 4 years. The commissioner shall be qualified
7 to hold that position by reason of education and experience. Directors of departmental divisions
8 shall be subject to the supervisory authority of the commissioner, which authority shall include
9 power to establish department and divisional policy as well as to control the actual operations of the
10 department and all divisions therein. The commissioner is authorized to establish any advisory
11 committees and programs which the commissioner may deem necessary to carry out the mission and
12 operations of the department.

13 II. The commissioner of energy shall nominate a deputy commissioner of energy for
14 appointment by the governor and council. The deputy commissioner shall hold office for 4 years and
15 until a successor has been appointed and qualified. The deputy commissioner shall be qualified to
16 hold that position by reason of education and experience. The deputy commissioner shall perform
17 such duties as the commissioner may assign. The deputy commissioner shall perform the duties of
18 the commissioner if for any reason the commissioner is unable to do so.

19 III. Division directors shall be appointed to initial terms as stated below, and then
20 subsequently to terms of 4 years. Terms notwithstanding, each division director shall serve until a
21 successor has been appointed and qualified.

22 (a) The commissioner shall nominate for appointment by the governor and council a
23 director of the division of policy and programs for an initial term of one year. All subsequent terms
24 shall be 4 years. The director of the division of policy and programs shall be qualified to hold that
25 position by reason of education and experience.

26 (b) The commissioner shall nominate for appointment by the governor and council a
27 director of the division of administration for an initial term of 2 years. All subsequent terms shall be
28 4 years. The director of the division of administration shall be qualified to hold that position by
29 reason of education and experience.

30 (c) The commissioner shall nominate for appointment by the governor and council a
31 director of the division of enforcement for an initial term of 3 years. All subsequent terms shall be 4
32 years. The director of the division of enforcement shall be qualified to hold that position by reason of
33 education and experience.

34 (d) The commissioner shall nominate for appointment by the governor and council a
35 director of the division of regulatory support for an initial term of 3 years. All subsequent terms
36 shall be 4 years. The director of the division of regulatory support shall be qualified to hold that
37 position by reason of education and experience.

1 IV. The salaries of the commissioner, the deputy commissioner, and each division director
2 shall be as specified in RSA 94:1-a.

3 12-P:5 Duties of Commissioner. In addition to the powers, duties, and functions otherwise
4 vested by law in the commissioner of the department of energy, the commissioner, except as
5 otherwise provided in this chapter, shall:

6 I. Represent the public interest in the administration of the functions of the department of
7 energy and be responsible to the governor, the general court, and the public for such administration.

8 II. Provide for, in consultation with the commissioner of the department of administrative
9 services and the state treasurer, a system of accounts and reports which will ensure the integrity
10 and lawful use of all fees, funds, and revenues collected by the department, the use of which is
11 restricted by state or federal law.

12 III. Have the authority to receive, administer, and internally audit all present and future
13 federal and state energy-related grant programs.

14 IV. Have the authority to adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, necessary to assure the
15 continuance or granting of federal funds or other assistance intended to promote the administration
16 of this chapter, not otherwise provided for by law, and to adopt all rules necessary to implement the
17 specific statutes administered by the department or by any division or unit within the department,
18 whether the rulemaking authority delegated by the legislature is granted to the commissioner, the
19 department, or any administrative unit or subordinate official of the department.

20 V. Have the authority to reorganize rules of the department to conform to the requirements
21 of RSA 541-A and the uniform drafting and numbering system adopted by the division of
22 administrative rules, office of legislative services. Reference changes shall be limited to title,
23 chapter, part, and section designations and numbers and substitution of terms reflecting
24 reorganization of the department to the existing statutory structure, and shall be made subject to
25 review by the division of administrative rules, office of legislative services for consistency and
26 accuracy of such changes. Such reference changes shall be integrated into the rules and such
27 amendments to the rules shall become effective when notice of these reference changes is published
28 by the director of legislative services in the rulemaking register. Reference changes made prior to
29 July 1, 2022, shall be exempt from the procedures and requirements of RSA 541-A. Changes
30 authorized under this section shall not affect the adoption or expiration date of rules changed under
31 this section.

32 VI. Collect and account for all fees, funds, taxes, or assessments levied upon any person
33 subject to the jurisdiction of the department of energy and the public utilities commission.

34 VII. Ensure that the department provides all necessary support to the public utilities
35 commission, the site evaluation committee, office of the consumer advocate, and any other entity
36 that is administratively attached to the department, provided that, other than for administrative
37 functions, department employees shall not communicate with the public utilities commission and its

1 staff in connection with any issue in a matter pending before the commission or the department,
2 except upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate.

3 12-P:6 Division of Administration. There is established within the department the division of
4 administration, under the supervision of an unclassified director of the division of administration.
5 The division, through its officials, shall be responsible for all functions, duties, and responsibilities
6 which may be assigned to it by the commissioner or laws enacted by the general court.

7 12-P:7 Division of Policy and Programs. There is established within the department the division
8 of policy and programs, under the supervision of an unclassified director of the division of policy and
9 programs. The division, through its officials, shall be responsible for all functions, duties, and
10 responsibilities which may be assigned to it by the commissioner or laws enacted by the general
11 court. In addition, the division shall administer fuel assistance contracts and weatherization
12 contracts. In administering fuel assistance and weatherization contracts, the division shall ensure
13 that when an individual applies for fuel assistance or weatherization, the individual shall be
14 provided with application forms and information about the Link-Up New Hampshire and Lifeline
15 Telephone Assistance programs, and shall be provided assistance in applying for these programs.

16 12-P:7-a State Energy Strategy.

17 I. The division of policy and programs, with approval of the commissioner, and with
18 assistance from an independent consultant and with input from the public and interested parties,
19 shall prepare a 10-year energy strategy for the state. The division shall review the strategy and
20 consider any necessary updates in consultation with the senate energy and natural resources
21 committee and the house science, technology and energy committee, after opportunity for public
22 comment, at least every 3 years starting in 2021. The state energy strategy shall include, but not be
23 limited to, sections on the following:

24 (a) The projected demand for consumption of electricity, natural gas, and other fuels for
25 heating and other related uses.

26 (b) Existing and proposed electricity and natural gas generation and transmission
27 facilities, the effects of future retirements and new resources, and consideration of possible
28 alternatives.

29 (c) Renewable energy and fuel diversity.

30 (d) Small-scale and distributed energy resources, energy storage technologies, and their
31 potential in the state.

32 (e) The role of energy efficiency, demand response, and other demand-side resources in
33 meeting the state's energy needs.

34 (f) The processes for siting energy facilities in the state and the criteria used by the site
35 evaluation committee in giving adequate consideration to the protection of the state's ecosystems
36 and visual, historic, and aesthetic resources in siting processes.

1 (g) The relationship between land use and transportation policies and programs on
2 electricity and thermal energy needs in the state.

3 (h) New Hampshire's role in the regional electric markets, how the regional market
4 affects the state's energy policy goals, and how the state can most effectively participate at the
5 regional level.

6 II. The strategy shall include a review of all state policies related to energy, including the
7 issues in paragraph I, and recommendations for policy changes and priorities necessary to ensure
8 the reliability, safety, fuel diversity, and affordability of New Hampshire's energy sources, while
9 protecting natural, historic, and aesthetic resources and encouraging local and renewable energy
10 resources. The strategy shall also include consideration of the extent to which demand-side
11 measures including efficiency, conservation, demand response, and load management can cost-
12 effectively meet the state's energy needs, and proposals to increase the use of such demand resources
13 to reduce energy costs and increase economic benefits to the state.

14 III. The strategy development process shall include review and consideration of relevant
15 studies and plans, including but not limited to those developed by the independent system operator
16 of New England (ISO-NE), the public utilities commission, the energy efficiency and sustainable
17 energy board, legislative study committees and commissions, and other state and regional
18 organizations as appropriate. The strategy shall also include consideration of new technologies and
19 their potential impact on the state's energy future.

20 12-P:7-b Office of Offshore Wind Industry Development Established.

21 I. There is established in the department of energy the office of offshore wind industry
22 development. The office shall be under the supervision of a classified director of the office of offshore
23 wind industry development, who shall serve under the supervision of the commissioner. The
24 director shall provide administrative oversight and ensure that the responsibilities of the office
25 described in this section are fulfilled.

26 II. The office of offshore wind industry development shall:

27 (a) Support the work of the New Hampshire members of the Intergovernmental
28 Renewable Energy Task Force administered by the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

29 (BOEM).

30 (b) Support the work of the offshore wind commission established in RSA 374-F:10.

31 (c) Assist the offshore wind commission to develop and implement offshore wind
32 development strategies including:

33 (1) Assessment of port facilities.

34 (2) Economic impact analyses.

35 (3) Supply chain analyses.

36 (4) Outcome and performance measurements.

1 (d) Collaborate with key state agencies and partners on offshore wind industry
2 development initiatives.

3 (e) Coordinate offshore wind industry economic development policy, including:

4 (1) Development of workforce.

5 (2) Identification of and recruitment of offshore wind development employers.

6 (3) Identification and recruitment of offshore wind supply chain employers.

7 (4) Promotion of New Hampshire's benefits to the various components of the offshore
8 wind industry.

9 (5) Provide updates and guidance to the general court with regard to policy and
10 funding.

11 12-P:8 Division of Enforcement. There is established within the department the division of
12 enforcement, under the supervision of an unclassified director of the division of enforcement. The
13 division, through its officials, shall be responsible for all functions, duties, and responsibilities which
14 may be assigned to it by the commissioner or laws enacted by the general court.

15 12-P:9 Division of Regulatory Support. There is established within the department the division
16 of regulatory support, under the supervision of an unclassified director of the division of regulatory
17 support. The division, through its officials, shall be responsible for all functions, duties, and
18 responsibilities which may be assigned to it by the commissioner or laws enacted by the general
19 court. The division shall automatically be a party to all proceedings before the public utilities
20 commission.

21 12-P:10 Specific Answers. The department or the commission may require any public utility or
22 entity subject to its jurisdiction to make specific answers to questions upon which the department or
23 commission may need information.

24 12-P:11 Transfer of Functions, Powers, Duties. All of the functions, powers, duties, records,
25 personnel, and property of the public utilities commission incorporated in the statutes establishing
26 the department of energy and which replace the authority of the commission with the authority of
27 the department of energy, are hereby transferred, as of July 1, 2021, to the department of energy.

28 12-P:12 Prohibited Service. No member of the commission shall render any professional service
29 for any public utility in this state, or any affiliate thereof, or act as attorney or render professional
30 service against any such public utility or affiliate; nor shall he or she be a member of a firm which
31 renders any such service; nor shall he or she directly or indirectly be a party to any contract with
32 any such public utility, except a contract for the transportation of telephone or telegraph messages,
33 or a contract for the purchase of water, gas, or electricity or for other similar service.

34 12-P:13 Pipeline Operation Safety.

35 I. The department of energy shall apply annually to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
36 Safety Administration of the United States Department of Transportation for authorization to take

1 such actions on its behalf to oversee pipeline operation safety, security, monitoring, and compliance
2 through an inspection process.

3 II. The department of energy shall report annually to the house science, technology, and
4 energy committee prior to October 1 on the status of pipeline safety, new and proposed projects, any
5 deficiency in state law that limits the department's ability to oversee interstate pipelines, or state
6 regulations for pipelines that do not meet the minimum federal standard.

7 12-P:14 Transfer of Rules, Orders, Approvals. Existing rules, orders, and approvals of the
8 public utilities commission which are associated with any functions, powers, and duties, transferred
9 to the department of energy pursuant to RSA 12-P:11 or any other statutory provision, shall
10 continue in effect and be enforced by the commissioner of the department of energy until they expire
11 or are repealed or amended in accordance with applicable law.

12 12-P:15 Suppliers of Natural Gas and Aggregators of Natural Gas Customers; Rulemaking.

13 I. The department is authorized to adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, establishing
14 requirements for suppliers of natural gas and the aggregators of natural gas customers, including
15 registration of such suppliers and aggregators before soliciting or doing business in the state,
16 registration fees, disclosure of information to customers, standards of conduct, submission to
17 commission jurisdiction for mediation and resolution of disputes, imposition of penalties for failure
18 to comply with commission requirements, and consumer protection and assistance requirements.

19 II. The department of energy shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A which require all natural
20 gas companies to report to the department, the senate president, and the speaker of the house of
21 representatives, in a uniform manner, lost and unaccounted for gas for each year.

22 (a) Such rules shall include a method using operational and billing data to determine the
23 total amount of lost and unaccounted for gas and to identify and measure each of its components.

24 (b) The department may grant waivers from the rules as necessary for the development
25 of innovative projects to reduce lost and unaccounted for gas. Such innovative projects shall be
26 intended to reduce costs to ratepayers and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. An application for a
27 waiver shall include the goals of the innovative project, the expected cost, the expected benefit to
28 ratepayers and the expected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

29 (c) For the purposes of this paragraph, "lost and unaccounted for gas" shall mean an
30 amount of gas that is the difference between the total gas purchased by a gas company and the sum
31 of: (1) total gas delivered to customers; and (2) total gas used by a gas company in the conduct of its
32 operations.

33 III. This section shall not in any way affect the utility or non-utility status of any supplier of
34 natural gas or aggregator of natural gas customers, nor shall it be construed to limit the
35 commission's and the department of energy's existing authority with regard to the regulation of gas
36 utilities or the scope of the commission's and the department's authority in considering whether to

1 expand the availability of competitive natural gas supplies through the distribution system of gas
2 utilities.

3 188 Department of Energy; Interim Commissioner. Until appointment of a commissioner under
4 RSA 12-P:4, the governor may initially designate an interim commissioner to serve for up to 60 days
5 from the effective date of this section.

6 189 Repeals. The following are repealed:

7 I. RSA 4-C, relative to the office of strategic initiatives; the governor's scholarship program
8 and fund, and state demography.

9 II. RSA 4-E, relative to the state energy strategy.

10 III. RSA 12-O:51 and 52, relative to the office of offshore wind industry development.

11 190 Office of Strategic Initiatives; Revolving Funds; Reference Change. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b)
12 (79) to read as follows:

13 (79) Moneys deposited in the publications revolving fund under *RSA 12-O:60, I* [RSA
14 ~~4-C:9-a~~].

15 191 Office of Strategic Initiatives; Revolving Funds; Reference Change. Amend RSA 6:12,
16 I(b)(169)

17 (169) Moneys deposited in the municipal and regional training fund under *RSA 12-*
18 *O:60, II* [RSA ~~4-C:9-a, H~~].

19 192 Organization of the Executive Branch. Amend RSA 21-G:6-b, II to read as follows:

20 II. The executive departments are as follows:

21 (a) The department of administrative services.

22 (b) The department of agriculture, markets, and food.

23 (c) The department of banking.

24 (d) The department of business and economic affairs.

25 (e) The department of corrections.

26 (f) The department of education.

27 (g) The department of employment security.

28 **(h) The department of energy.**

29 [~~(h)~~] (i) The department of environmental services.

30 [~~(i)~~] (j) The department of health and human services.

31 [~~(j)~~] (k) The department of information technology.

32 [~~(k)~~] (l) The department of insurance.

33 [~~(l)~~] (m) The department of labor.

34 [~~(m)~~] (n) The department of military affairs and veteran services.

35 [~~(n)~~] (o) The department of natural and cultural resources.

36 [~~(o)~~] (p) The department of revenue administration.

37 [~~(p)~~] (q) The department of safety.

1 I. There is established the office of planning and development within the department of
2 business and economic affairs. The office of shall be under the supervision of a classified director of
3 the office of planning and development, who shall serve under the supervision of the commissioner.

4 II. The office of planning and development shall:

5 (a) Plan for the orderly development of the state and the wise management of the state's
6 resources.

7 (b) Compile, analyze, and disseminate data, information, and research services as
8 necessary to advance the welfare of the state.

9 (c) Encourage and assist planning, growth management, and development activities of
10 cities and towns and groups of cities and towns with the purpose of encouraging smart growth.

11 (d) Encourage the coordination and correlation of state planning by agencies of state
12 government.

13 (e) Participate in interstate, regional, and national planning efforts.

14 (f) Administer federal and state grant-in-aid programs assigned to the office by statute
15 or executive order.

16 (g) Participate and advise in matters of land use planning regarding water resources
17 and floodplain management.

18 (h) Take a leadership role in encouraging smart growth and preserving farmland, open
19 space land, and traditional village centers.

20 (i) Administer the following programs: the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation
21 plan, the national flood insurance program, and the land conservation investment program. The
22 office shall employ necessary personnel to administer these programs.

23 (j) Perform such other duties as the commissioner may assign.

24 12-O:54 State Development Plan.

25 I. The office of planning and development, under the direction of the commissioner, shall:

26 (a) Assist the commissioner in preparing, publishing, and revising the comprehensive
27 development plan required under RSA 9-A.

28 (b) Coordinate and monitor the planning efforts of various state agencies and
29 departments to ensure that program plans published by such agencies are consistent with the
30 policies and priorities established in the comprehensive development plan.

31 (c) Coordinate and monitor the planning efforts of the regional planning commissions to
32 ensure that the plans published by the commissions are consistent, to the extent practical, with the
33 policies and priorities established in the state development plan.

34 II. In preparing the state development plan, the office of planning and development shall
35 consult with the chief executive officers of the various departments and agencies of state
36 government. The office shall also consult with officials of regional planning commissions and

1 regional and local planning and development agencies, local officials, representatives of the business
2 and environmental community, and the general public.

3 III. All state agencies and departments shall provide the office of planning and development
4 with information and assistance as required by the office to fulfill its responsibilities under
5 paragraph I. The office shall maintain the confidentiality of any information which is protected by
6 law.

7 12-O:55 Data and Information Services. The office of planning and development shall:

8 I. Gather, tabulate, and periodically publish information on the location and pace of
9 development throughout the state, including, but not limited to, population, housing, and building
10 permit data.

11 II. Initiate data coordination procedures as the state agency responsible for coordinating
12 data collection and dissemination among the state, the private sector, and the various political
13 subdivisions.

14 III. Gather information for storage in a data bank concerning the data which is currently
15 available within all state agencies. This data shall be used to provide information which is useful in
16 measuring growth and its impact and for statewide planning purposes in general. The data
17 available for dissemination shall include, but shall not be limited to, information for determining
18 future demands for state services and demographic and economic statistics. Any other state agency
19 or department which initiates a data collection program shall inform the office of planning and
20 development of its efforts so that the office may utilize that information for planning purposes in its
21 dissemination program.

22 IV. Cooperate with the department of environmental services in identifying potential sites
23 for hazardous waste facilities.

24 V. Develop and maintain a computerized geographic information system in support of state,
25 regional, or local planning and management activities.

26 VI. Cooperate with the Bureau of the Census and other federal agencies with the objective of
27 improving access to the statistical products, data, and information of the federal government.

28 VII. Annually estimate the resident population for all cities and towns of the state pursuant
29 to RSA 78-A:25.

30 12-O:56 Policies and Plans.

31 I. The office of planning and development shall formulate policies and plans for
32 consideration by the commissioner and the governor which serve to integrate and coordinate
33 resource and development activities affecting more than one state agency, level of government, or
34 governmental function. Such activities may include, but shall not be limited to, the following subject
35 areas:

36 (a) Water resources.

37 (b) Transportation.

- 1 (c) Recreation and natural resources.
- 2 (d) Solid waste and hazardous waste management.
- 3 (e) Off-shore, coastal, and estuarine resources.
- 4 (f) Housing.
- 5 (g) Economic development.
- 6 (h) Energy.
- 7 (i) Shoreland protection.
- 8 (j) Smart growth.

9 12-O:57 Program Established. The director of the office of planning and development shall
10 establish a program of regional and municipal assistance within the office of planning and
11 development. This program shall coordinate state, regional, and local planning efforts with the goal
12 of assuring delivery of efficient and effective assistance to local governments in areas related to
13 growth management and resource protection.

14 12-O:58 Responsibilities for Assistance. The office of planning and development shall:

15 I. Provide technical assistance and, within the limits of biennial legislative appropriations,
16 financial grants to regional planning commissions established under RSA 36:45-36:53 in support of:

- 17 (a) Planning assistance to local units of government.
- 18 (b) Preparation of regional plans.
- 19 (c) Contributions to and coordination with statewide planning and management
20 activities, including the formulation and updating of the comprehensive state development plan
21 prepared pursuant to RSA 12-P:54.

22 II. As requested and in cooperation with regional planning commissions, provide technical
23 assistance and information in support of the planning and growth management efforts of local units
24 of government, including training requested under RSA 673:3-a. The office shall encourage
25 municipalities to first seek assistance from established regional planning commissions.

26 III. Provide computer interface capability among and between each regional planning
27 commission, the office of strategic initiatives, and state data collection and storage sources. The
28 computer interface capability shall be used by regional planning commissions to respond to
29 municipal requests for assistance in the preparation and amending of master plans and in the
30 evaluation of municipal infrastructure needs. The computer interface capability shall also be used
31 by regional planning commissions to develop and update regional master plans, as provided in RSA
32 36:47. The computer equipment used for the purposes of this paragraph shall be compatible and
33 able to interface with the office of planning and development's geographic information system, as
34 well as with other similar state computerized data collection and storage sources.

35 IV. Provide technical assistance and information to municipalities with the cooperation of
36 other state and regional planning agencies in the following areas:

1 (a) Use and application of geographic data available in the state's geographic
2 information system (GIS) for local planning and growth management purposes.

3 (b) Recommending standard procedures for the establishment of accurate, large-scale
4 base mapping to support municipal administrative functions such as tax assessment, public facility
5 management and engineering.

6 12-O:59 Coordination at State Level. The office of planning and development shall coordinate
7 efforts by state agencies to provide technical assistance to municipal governments in areas related to
8 growth management and resource protection.

9 12-O:60 Revolving Funds. In order to enhance its ability to provide education and training
10 assistance to municipalities and regional agencies, the following nonlapsing revolving funds, which
11 shall not exceed \$20,000 on June 30 of each year, shall be established in the office of planning and
12 development:

13 I. A revolving fund known as the publications revolving fund:

14 (a) The moneys in this fund shall be used for the purposes of printing materials for
15 distribution. A reasonable charge shall be established for each copy of a document. This charge
16 shall be only in the amount necessary to pay the cost of producing such document.

17 (b) The amount in the nonlapsing publications revolving fund shall not exceed \$20,000,
18 on June 30 of each year and any amounts in excess of \$20,000 on June 30 of each year shall be
19 deposited in the general fund as unrestricted revenue.

20 II. A revolving fund known as the municipal and regional training fund.

21 (a) The moneys in this fund shall be used for the purpose of providing training to local
22 and regional officials. A reasonable charge shall be established for such training. This charge shall
23 be fixed to reflect the cost of payments to experts to provide the training, the cost of written training
24 material, rental of facilities, advertising and other associated costs. Such training shall be
25 conducted in a geographically dispersed manner and scheduled with the convenience of part-time
26 officials in mind.

27 (b) The amount in the nonlapsing municipal and regional training revolving fund shall
28 not exceed \$20,000 on June 30 of each year and any amounts in excess of \$20,000 on June 30 of each
29 year shall be deposited in the general fund as unrestricted revenue.

30 196 State Development Plan. Amend RSA 9-A:2 to read as follows:

31 9-A:2 ~~[Office of Strategic Initiatives]~~ **Office of Planning and Development.** The office of
32 ~~[strategic initiatives]~~ **planning and development**, under the direction of the ~~[governor]~~
33 **commissioner of business and economic affairs**, shall:

34 I. Assist the ~~[governor]~~ **commissioner** in preparing, publishing and revising the
35 comprehensive development plan.

36 II. Develop and maintain a technical data base of information to support statewide policy
37 development and planning.

1 III. Coordinate and monitor the planning efforts of various state agencies and departments
2 to ensure that program plans published by such agencies are consistent with the policies and
3 priorities established in the comprehensive development plan.

4 IV. Coordinate and monitor the planning efforts of the regional planning commissions.

5 197 State Development Plan; References Changed. Amend RSA 9-A:4 to read as follows:

6 9-A:4 Consultation With Other Agencies.

7 I. In preparing the state development plan, the office of ~~[strategic initiatives]~~ **planning and**
8 **development** shall consult with the chief executive officers of the various departments and agencies
9 of state government with responsibilities which are relevant to economic development.

10 II. The office may also consult with officials of regional and local planning and development
11 agencies and representatives of business and industry.

12 III. All state agencies and departments shall provide the office of ~~[strategic initiatives]~~
13 **planning and development** with such information and assistance required by the office to fulfill
14 its responsibilities under RSA 9-A:2. The office shall maintain the confidentiality of any information
15 which is protected by law.

16 198 Name Change; Office of Planning and Development. Amend the following RSAs by
17 replacing "office of strategic initiatives" with "office of planning and development": RSA 4-F:1; 12-
18 G:13; 17-M:2; 21-O:5-a; 21-P:48; 36:45; ~~36:46; 36:47;~~ 36-B:1; 78-A:25; 78-A:26; 125-O:5-a; 126-A:4;
19 162-L:15; 162-L:19; 204-C:8; 216-A:3-c; 216-F:5; 217-A:3; 227-C:4; 227-G:2; 227-M:4; 233-A:2; 235:23;
20 238:20; 270:64; 270:71; 432:19; 482-A:32; 483:8; 483:10; 483-A:6; 483-A:7; 483-B:5; 483-B:12; 483-
21 B:16; 483-B:22; 485-A:4; 673:3-a; 674:3; 675:9.

22 199 Council on Resources and Development; Membership. Amend RSA 162-C:1 to read as
23 follows:

24 162-C:1 Council Established. There is established a council on resources and development
25 which shall include the following members:

26 I. ~~[The director, or assistant director of the office of strategic initiatives who shall serve as~~
27 ~~chairperson of the council.~~

28 ~~II.]~~ II. The commissioner or appropriate division director, department of business and economic
29 affairs, or designee, **who shall serve as chairperson of the council.**

30 ~~III.]~~ III. The commissioner or assistant commissioner, department of environmental
31 services, or designee.

32 ~~IV.]~~ IV. The commissioner or appropriate division director, department of agriculture,
33 markets, and food, or designee.

34 ~~V.]~~ V. The executive director or appropriate division director, fish and game department,
35 or designee.

36 ~~VI.]~~ VI. The commissioner or assistant commissioner, department of safety, or designee.

1 ~~[VII.]~~ **VI.** The commissioner of the department of health and human services or a member of
2 the senior management team, or designee.

3 ~~[VIII.]~~ **VII.** The commissioner or assistant commissioner, department of education, or
4 designee.

5 ~~[IX.]~~ **VIII.** The commissioner or assistant commissioner, department of transportation, or
6 designee.

7 ~~[X.]~~ **IX.** The commissioner or appropriate division director, department of natural and
8 cultural resources, or designee.

9 ~~[XI.]~~ **X.** The commissioner or appropriate division director, department of administrative
10 services, or designee.

11 ~~[XII.]~~ **XI.** The executive director or chairman of the New Hampshire housing finance
12 authority, or designee.

13 200 Name Change; Department of Energy. Amend the following RSAs by replacing "office of
14 strategic initiatives" with "department of energy": RSA 9-E:5; 12-K:2; 12-K:3; 12-K:6; 12-K:8; 12-
15 K:9; 38-D:6; 147-B:4; 162-H:10; 167:4-c; 369-B:2; 374:22-j.

16 201 Reference Changed; State Energy Strategy; Offshore Wind Commission. Amend RSA 374-
17 F:10, I to read as follows:

18 I. There is established a commission to investigate, in parallel with the work of the Gulf of
19 Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force established by the Bureau of Ocean Energy
20 Management (BOEM) study, the economic development opportunities for New Hampshire in supply
21 chain needs, port capabilities, workforce development, energy procurement, transmission and
22 storage, and fisheries and marine environment, to ensure the success of offshore wind in the Gulf of
23 Maine. The commission may consider, at an appropriate time, in relation to the New Hampshire
24 state energy strategy, outlined in RSA ~~[4-E]~~ **12-P**, if contracts with developers and utilities can
25 deliver lower costs to ratepayers. The commission may coordinate with the advisory boards
26 established in Executive Order 2019-06 as to assist the commission in reaching its
27 recommendations.

28 202 Reference Changed; State Energy Policy; Least Cost Energy Planning. Amend RSA 378:38,
29 VII to read as follows:

30 **VII.** An assessment of plan integration and consistency with the state energy strategy under
31 RSA ~~[4-E:1]~~ **12-P**.

32 203 Reference Changed; Motor Vehicle Waste Fee. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA
33 261:153, V to read as follows:

34 V. Beginning July 1, 1989, in addition to each registration fee collected under paragraph I,
35 there may be collected an additional fee for the purposes of a town reclamation trust fund as
36 established in RSA 149-M:18. Of this amount, \$.50 shall be retained by the city official designated
37 by the city government or by the town clerk for administrative costs and the remaining amount shall

1 be deposited into the reclamation trust fund established by the town for the purpose of paying
2 collection and disposal fees for the town's motor vehicle waste and paying for the recycling and
3 reclamation of other types of solid waste. For the purposes of this paragraph, "motor vehicle waste"
4 means "motor vehicle waste" as defined in RSA 149-M:18. A town which collects such additional fees
5 shall not charge a disposal fee for motor vehicle waste at the town's solid waste disposal facility. If a
6 town finds the additional fee is not sufficient to cover fees for collection and disposal of town motor
7 vehicle waste, it shall notify the office of ~~[strategic initiatives]~~ **planning and development**. The
8 office shall study the fee in accordance with RSA ~~[4-C:4]~~ **12-O:53** and make recommendations, if
9 necessary, for increases in the fee. The additional fee schedule shall be graduated by class of vehicle
10 as follows:

11 204 Public Utilities Commission; Prohibition on Future Employment. Amend RSA 363:12-b to
12 read as follows:

13 363:12-b Prohibition on Future Employment. No commissioner, **or former** executive director,
14 finance director, **or** general counsel~~[-or chief engineer]~~ of the commission shall accept any
15 employment with any utility under the control of the commission until one year after he or she shall
16 become separated from the commission.

17 205 Repeal. RSA 363:4-a, relative to duties of commissioners of the public utilities commission,
18 is repealed.

19 206 Public Utilities Commission; Prohibition on Future Employment. Amend RSA 363:12-b to
20 read as follows:

21 363:12-b Prohibition on Future Employment. No commissioner, **or former** executive director,
22 finance director, **or** general counsel~~[-or chief engineer]~~ of the commission shall accept any
23 employment with any utility under the control of the commission until one year after he or she shall
24 become separated from the commission.

25 207 Public Utilities Commission; Quorum. Amend RSA 363:16 to read as follows:

26 363:16 Quorum. A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum to issue orders ~~[or~~
27 ~~adopt rules]~~, and any hearing ~~[or investigation]~~ may be held or conducted by 2 commissioners or by a
28 single commissioner.

29 208 Public Utilities Commission; Request for Full Commission. Amend RSA 363:17 to read as
30 follows:

31 363:17 Request for Full Commission. No hearing ~~[or investigation]~~, except in accident cases,
32 shall be held or conducted by a single commissioner if any party whose interests may be affected
33 shall, 5 days before the date of hearing, file a request in writing that the same be held or conducted
34 by the full commission, or a majority thereof. If no such request is filed, the commission may assign
35 one of its members or appoint a qualified member of its staff as examiner to hear the parties, report
36 the facts, and make recommendations to the commission.

37 209 Repeal. The following are repealed:

1 I. RSA 363:18-a, relative to the authority of the public utilities commission to contract for
2 power.

3 II. RSA 363:22-a, relative to pipeline operation safety.

4 210 Public Utilities Commission; Staff. Amend RSA 363:27 to read as follows:

5 363:27 Staff~~[- Separation of Functions]~~.

6 I. In the exercise of the jurisdiction and performance of the duties prescribed by law, the
7 commission shall have the power, subject to the state personnel regulations and within the limits of
8 the appropriation for such purpose, to employ and fix the compensation of such regular staff,
9 including experts, as it shall deem necessary. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the
10 expenditure of additional funds over budget estimates is necessary for the proper functioning of the
11 public utilities commission, the governor and council, with the prior approval of the fiscal committee
12 of the general court, upon request from the commission, may authorize an additional assessment
13 pursuant to RSA 363-A for such purpose.

14 II. The staff of the commission shall be organized as the ~~[commission]~~ **chairperson**
15 determines best achieves its statutory responsibilities.

16 III. ~~[Executive Director and General Counsel. The commission shall appoint an executive~~
17 ~~director, who shall serve for a term of 4 years. The commission shall also appoint a general counsel,~~
18 ~~who shall serve for a term of 4 years and until a successor is appointed and qualified.]~~ **"Staff"**
19 **means the employees of the commission and any consultants and other contractors**
20 **retained by the commission for the purpose of assisting the commission and its employees**
21 **in providing advice or information, or for the purpose of supplementing the work of the**
22 **commission and its employees.**

23 ~~[IV. Director of Safety and Security. The commission shall appoint a director of safety and~~
24 ~~security, who shall serve a term of 4 years. The director of safety and security shall be qualified to~~
25 ~~hold that position by reason of education and experience and shall perform such duties as are~~
26 ~~assigned by the chairman of the commission.]~~

27 211 ~~Office of the Consumer Advocate; Attachment to Department of Energy. Amend the~~
28 ~~introductory paragraph of RSA 363:28, I to read as follows:~~

29 I. The office of the consumer advocate shall be an independent agency administratively
30 attached to the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** pursuant to RSA 21-G:10. The
31 office shall consist of the following:

32 212 Office of the Consumer Advocate; Attachment to Department of Energy. Amend RSA
33 363:28, III to read as follows:

34 III. The consumer advocate shall have authority to contract for outside consultants within
35 the limits of funds available to the office. With the approval of the fiscal committee of the general
36 court and the governor and council, the office of the consumer advocate may employ experts to assist
37 it in proceedings before the public utilities commission, and may pay them reasonable compensation.

1 The ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** shall charge a special assessment for any
2 such amounts against any utility participating in such proceedings and shall provide for the timely
3 recovery of such amounts for the affected utility.

4 213 Repeal. RSA 363:30 through RSA 363:36, relative to participation of staff of the public
5 utilities commission in adjudicative proceedings, are repealed.

6 214 Public Utilities Commission; Complaints. Amend RSA 363:39 to read as follows:

7 363:39 Complaints ~~[to the Commission]~~. When complaints to the ~~[public utilities commission]~~
8 **department of energy** are initiated by residential customers, the ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall
9 provide to the consumer advocate access to the complaint, by paper or electronically, with the
10 customer name blocked out, at the same time as the ~~[commission]~~ **department** forwards the
11 complaint to the utility in compliance with ~~[commission]~~ **department** rules.

12 215 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Infrastructure Commission; Membership. Amend RSA
13 4-G:1, II(a)(1) to read as follows:

14 (1) ~~[Office of strategic initiatives]~~ **Department of energy**.

15 216 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Infrastructure Commission; Duties. Amend RSA 4-G:1,
16 III(f) to read as follows:

17 (f) Changes needed to state laws, rules, and practices, including building codes,
18 **department of energy rules**, and public utilities commission rules, to further the development of
19 zero emission vehicle technology and infrastructure.

20 217 Maintenance of Funds Collected Pursuant to Electric Utility Restructuring Orders. Amend
21 RSA 6:12-b to read as follows:

22 6:12-b Maintenance of Funds Collected Pursuant to Electric Utility Restructuring Orders. On
23 request of the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy**, the state treasurer shall
24 maintain custody over funds collected by order of the public utilities commission consisting of only
25 that portion of the system benefits charge directly attributable to programs for low income customers
26 as described in RSA 374-F:4, VIII(c). All funds received by the state treasurer pursuant to this
27 section shall be kept separate from any other funds and shall be administered in accordance with
28 terms and conditions established by the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy**. Plans
29 for the administration of such funds shall be approved by the fiscal committee of the general court
30 and the governor and council prior to submission to the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of**
31 **energy**. Appropriations and expenditures of such funds in fiscal years 2002 and 2003 shall be
32 approved by the fiscal committee of the general court and the governor and council prior to
33 submission to the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy**. For each biennium
34 thereafter, appropriations and expenditures of such funds shall be made through the biennial
35 operating budget.

36 218 Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Districts. Amend RSA 53-F:6, I to read as follows:

1 I. Improvements financed pursuant to an agreement under this chapter shall be based upon
2 an audit performed by a person who has been certified as a building analyst by the Building
3 Performance Institute or who has obtained other appropriate certification as determined by the
4 ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** or another appropriate New Hampshire-based
5 entity. The audit shall identify recommended energy conservation and efficiency and clean energy
6 improvements; provide the estimated energy cost savings, useful life, benefit-cost ratio, and simple
7 payback or return on investment for each improvement; and provide the estimated overall difference
8 in annual energy costs with and without recommended improvements. Financed improvements
9 shall be consistent with the audit recommendations. The cost of the audit may be included in the
10 total amount financed under this chapter.

11 219 Enhanced 911 Commission; Membership. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 106-
12 H:3, I(a) to read as follows:

13 (a) There is hereby established an enhanced 911 commission consisting of 19 members,
14 including the director of the division of fire standards and training and emergency medical services
15 or designee, the ~~[chairman of the public utilities commission]~~ **commissioner of the department of**
16 **energy** or designee, the commissioner of the department of safety or designee, a public member, a
17 police officer experienced in responding to emergency calls, a representative of the disabled
18 community, and one active member recommended by each of the following organizations, nominated
19 by the governor with the approval of the council:

20 220 Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board; Membership. Amend RSA 125-O:5-a,
21 II(b) to read as follows:

22 II. The members of the board shall be as follows:

- 23 (a) The chairman of the public utilities commission, or designee.
24 (b) The ~~[director of the office of strategic initiatives]~~ **commissioner of the department**
25 **of energy**, or designee.
26 (c) The consumer advocate, or designee.
27 (d) ~~The commissioner of the department of environmental services, or designee.~~
28 (e) The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs, or designee.
29 (f) The president of the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire, or
30 designee.
31 (g) The executive director of the New Hampshire Municipal Association, or designee.
32 (h) The executive director of New Hampshire Legal Assistance, or designee.
33 (i) The president of the Homebuilders and Remodelers Association of New
34 Hampshire, or designee.
35 (j) Two members of the house science, technology and energy committee appointed by
36 the speaker of the house of representatives.

1 (k) One member of the senate energy, environment and economic development
2 committee, appointed by the president of the senate.

3 (l) Three representatives from not-for-profit groups representing energy, environmental,
4 consumer, or public health issues and knowledgeable in energy conservation policies and programs,
5 appointed by the ~~[chairman of the public utilities commission]~~ **commissioner of the department of**
6 **energy**.

7 (m) The commissioner of the department of administrative services, or designee.

8 (n) The state fire marshal, or designee.

9 (o) The executive director of the New Hampshire housing finance authority, or designee.

10 III. The board shall include, as nonvoting participants, the following:

11 (a) One representative from each utility-administered electric and natural gas energy
12 efficiency program appointed by the ~~[chairman of the public utilities commission]~~ **commissioner of**
13 **the department of energy**.

14 (b) A representative of energy services companies delivering energy efficiency services to
15 residential and business customers, appointed by the ~~[chairman of the public utilities commission]~~
16 **commissioner of the department of energy**.

17 (c) A representative of a business or association of businesses selling or installing
18 sustainable or renewable energy systems, appointed by the ~~[chairman of the public utilities~~
19 ~~commission]~~ **commissioner of the department of energy**.

20 (d) A representative from the investment community with expertise in efficiency
21 investments and financing, appointed by the ~~[chairman of the public utilities commission]~~
22 **commissioner of the department of energy**.

23 IV. The chairman of the public utilities commission shall call the first meeting of the board.
24 The board shall elect a chairperson from among its members. Seven members of the board shall
25 constitute a quorum. The board shall make an annual report on December 1 to the governor, the
26 speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house science, technology
27 and energy committee, the senate energy, environment and economic development committee, **the**
28 **department of energy**, and the public utilities commission, to provide an update on its activities
29 and recommendations for action including possible legislation.

30 V The board shall be administratively attached to the ~~[public utilities commission]~~
31 **department of energy** under RSA 21-G:10.

32 221 State Building Code Review Board; Membership. Amend RSA 155-A:10, I(k) to read as
33 follows:

34 (k) One representative from the New Hampshire ~~[public utilities commission]~~
35 **department of energy**, nominated by the ~~[chairman of the commission]~~ **commissioner of the**
36 **department of energy**.

1 222 Nuclear Decommissioning Financing Committee; Membership. Amend RSA 162-F:15, II to
2 read as follows:

3 II. Each committee shall consist of one person who is a resident of the town or city in which
4 the facility is located and who shall be appointed by the selectmen of the town or the mayor and
5 council of the city, the chairman of the public utilities commission, *the commissioner of the*
6 *department of energy*, one senator, to be appointed by the senate president, one house member, to
7 be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, the state treasurer or designee, the
8 commissioner of the department of health and human services or designee, *and* the commissioner of
9 the department of safety or designee, ~~and the director of the governor's office of energy and~~
10 ~~community services or designee~~.

11 223 Conduct of Studies Concerning Changes in Laws and Regulations with a View to Atomic
12 Development. Amend RSA 162-B:3, IV to read as follows:

13 IV. The public utilities commission *and the department of energy*, particularly as to the
14 transportation of special nuclear materials and by-product materials by common carriers or public or
15 private air carriers not in interstate commerce and as to the participation by public utilities subject
16 to ~~[its]~~ *their* jurisdiction in projects looking to the development of production or utilization facilities
17 for industrial or commercial use.

18 224 New Hampshire Building Code; Energy Code Compliance Form. Amend RSA 155-A:10-a to
19 read as follows:

20 155-A:10-a Energy Code Compliance Form. The state building code review board shall prescribe
21 by rule and make available to the public, in electronic formats, a simplified residential energy code
22 compliance form based upon the energy provisions in the International Residential Code and the
23 International Energy Conservation Code identified in RSA 155-A:1. The correctly completed form
24 shall be accepted by all code enforcement authorities within the state of New Hampshire as one
25 method of verification that the applicable project meets the code requirements. Completed
26 compliance forms shall be submitted to the building official in those municipalities that have
27 adopted an enforcement mechanism under RSA 674:51. For municipalities without an adopted code
28 enforcement mechanism, completed compliance forms shall be submitted to the New Hampshire
29 ~~[public utilities commission]~~ *department of energy*, on behalf of the building code review board, for
30 verification that the applicable project meets the code requirements. The ~~[public utilities~~
31 ~~commission]~~ *department of energy* shall then forward the reviewed compliance forms to the
32 municipality for retention in property records.

33 225 Organization of Nuclear Decommissioning Financing Committees. Amend RSA 162-F:17, I
34 to read as follows:

35 I. The temporary chairman of each committee formed, who shall be the ~~[chairman of the~~
36 ~~public utilities commission]~~ *commissioner of the department of energy*, shall call an
37 organizational meeting within 90 days of formation. At the organizational meeting, the committee

1 shall select a chairman to serve for a 3-year term, elect such other officers as the members shall
2 determine, and establish a schedule of meetings for determining the requirements of the
3 decommissioning fund.

4 226 Decommissioning of Nuclear Electric Generating Facilities; Report; Public Hearing. Amend
5 RSA 162-F:21, III-IV to read as follows:

6 III. Each committee shall rely on all available data and experience in determining the
7 amount of such fund including, but not limited to, information from the Nuclear Regulatory
8 Commission; the public utilities commission; *the department of energy*, the owner or owners of the
9 facility; municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies; and relevant
10 construction cost indices. The committee shall publish a transcript of all proceedings during which
11 information was presented or offered into testimony, and a detailed analysis of the facts and figures
12 used in determining the amount of the fund.

13 IV. Following the committee's deliberation and prior to final hearing, the plan for scheduled
14 payments into the fund and relevant evidence, including the transcripts and analysis published
15 pursuant to RSA 162-F:21, III, shall be available for public review in the clerk's office of the city or
16 town where the facility is located and in the office of the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ *department of*
17 *energy* at least 30 days prior to the one or more public hearings on the committee's proposed plan.
18 At least one hearing shall be held in the city or town where the facility is located. A notice of the
19 time and place of each hearing shall be posted in 2 appropriate public places in the city or town
20 where the facility is located and shall be printed at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation
21 for that city or town and in a newspaper of state-wide circulation 2 weeks prior to each hearing.
22 Testimony presented at the hearings held pursuant to this paragraph shall be taken into
23 consideration by the committee when it formalizes the payment schedule plan. All testimony shall
24 be transcribed and made a permanent record.

25 227 Site Evaluation Committee; Membership; Administrative Attachment. Amend RSA 162-
26 H:3, IV to read as follows:

27 IV. The committee shall be administratively attached to the ~~[public utilities commission]~~
28 *department of energy* pursuant to RSA 21-G:10.

29 228 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study necessary revisions to
30 the site evaluation committee.

31 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

32 (a) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

33 (b) Three members of the house of representatives, at least one of whom shall be a
34 member of the science, technology, and energy committee, one of whom shall be a member of the
35 finance committee, and at least one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, appointed by
36 the speaker of the house of representatives.

1 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to
2 the duties of the committee.

3 III. The committee shall:

4 (a) Evaluate the current structure, processes, authorities, funding, and functions of the
5 site evaluation committee and whether the statutory purpose and original legislative intent of the
6 site evaluation committee is being achieved.

7 (b) Review the structure, processes, authorities, funding, and functions of public bodies
8 with jurisdiction over siting large energy facilities that have been established by other states.

9 (c) Consider the site evaluation committee's relationship to the department of energy
10 and other state agencies.

11 (d) Review the timeliness of site evaluation committee decisions, the on-going
12 enforcement of certificates issued by the site evaluation committee, public input to the orderly siting
13 of energy infrastructure, and any changes required to minimize delays siting energy infrastructure.

14 (e) Make recommendations for legislation to restructure the site evaluation committee
15 no later than October 1, 2021.

16 IV. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members.
17 The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named senate member. The first
18 meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Three
19 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

20 V. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation
21 to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the
22 house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before October 1, 2021.

23 229 Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for Certain Products; Definitions. Amend RSA 339-
24 G:1, II to read as follows:

25 II. ~~["Commission" means the public utilities commission.]~~ **"Department" means the**
26 **department of energy.**

27 230 Reference Change; Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for Certain Products;
28 Department. Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing the term "commission" with
29 "department": 339-G:3, III(b), 339-G:4, II, 339-G:5, 339-G:6, 339-G:7, 339-G:8, 339-G:9.

30 231 Gas Companies; When Public Utilities. Amend RSA 362:4-b, III to read as follows:

31 III. Nothing in this section prevents the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** from
32 monitoring or enforcing the provisions of federal pipeline safety standards relative to liquefied
33 petroleum gas systems pursuant to the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act.

34 232 New Paragraph; Limited Electrical Energy Producers Act; Definitions. Amend RSA 362-
35 A:1-a by inserting after paragraph II-d the following new paragraph:

36 II-e. "Department" means the New Hampshire department of energy.

1 233 Reference Change; Net Energy Metering; Department of Energy. Amend the following RSA
2 provisions by replacing the term "commission" with "department": 362-A:9, X-XII.

3 234 Net Energy Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9, XIV to read as follows:

4 XIV.(a) A customer-generator may elect to become a group host for the purpose of reducing
5 or otherwise controlling the energy costs of a group of customers who are not customer-generators.
6 The group of customers shall be located within the service territory of the same electric distribution
7 utility as the host. The host shall provide a list of the group members to the commission and the
8 electric distribution utility and shall certify that all members of the group have executed an
9 agreement with the host regarding the utilization of kilowatt hours produced by the eligible facility
10 and that the total historic annual load of the group members together with the host exceeds the
11 projected annual output of the host's facility. The [~~commission~~] **department** shall verify that these
12 group requirements have been met and shall register the group host. The [~~commission~~] **department**
13 shall establish the process for registering hosts, including periodic re-registration, and the process by
14 which changes in membership are allowed and administered. Net metering tariffs under this section
15 shall not be made available to a customer-generator group host until such host is registered by the
16 [~~commission~~] **department**.

17 (b) Except as provided in subparagraph (c), the provisions of this section shall apply to a
18 group host as a customer-generator.

19 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph V, a group host shall be paid for its surplus generation at
20 the end of each billing cycle at rates consistent with the credit the group host receives relative to its
21 own net metering under either subparagraph IV(a) or (b) or alternative tariffs that may be
22 applicable pursuant to paragraph XVI. Alternatively, a group host may elect to receive credits on
23 the customer electric bill for each member and the host, with the utility being allowed the most cost-
24 effective method of doing so according to an amount or percentage specified for each member on PUC
25 form 909.09 (Application to Register or Re-register as a Host), along with a 3 cent per kwh addition
26 from July 1, 2019 through July 1, 2021 and a 2.5 cent per kwh addition thereafter for low-moderate
27 income community solar projects, as defined in RSA 362-F:2, X-a. On or before July 1, 2022, the
28 [~~commission~~] **department** shall report on the costs and benefits of such an addition and the
29 development of the market for low-moderate income community solar projects, and provide a
30 recommendation on whether the addition shall be increased or decreased. The [~~commission~~]
31 **department** shall report on the costs and benefits of low-moderate income community solar projects,
32 as defined in RSA 362-F:2, X-a on or before June 1, 2020. The [~~commission~~] **department** shall
33 authorize at least 2 new low-moderate income community solar projects, as defined in RSA 362-F:2,
34 X-a, each year in each utility's service territory beginning January 1, 2020. On an annual basis, for
35 all group host systems except for residential systems with an interconnected capacity under 15
36 kilowatts, the electric distribution utility shall calculate a payment adjustment if the host's surplus
37 generation for which it was paid is greater than the group's total electricity usage during the same

1 time period. The adjustment shall be such that the resulting compensation to the host for the
2 amount that exceeded the group's total usage shall be at the utility's avoided cost or its default
3 service rate in accordance with subparagraph V(b) or paragraph VI or alternative tariffs that may be
4 applicable pursuant to paragraph XVI. The utility shall pay or bill the host accordingly.

5 (d) [Repealed.]

6 (e) The **department is authorized to petition** the commission [~~is authorized~~] to assess
7 fines against, revoke the registration of, and prohibit from doing business in the state, any group
8 host which violates the requirements of this paragraph and rules adopted pursuant to this
9 paragraph. **The commission is authorized to grant or deny such petitions.**

10 235 Repeal. RSA 362-F:2, IV, relative to the definition of "commission" as it pertains to electric
11 renewable portfolio standards, is repealed.

12 236 Electric Renewable Energy Classes; Reference Changed. Amend RSA 362-F:4, I(i)-(k) to
13 read as follows:

14 (i) The incremental new production of electricity in any year from an eligible biomass or
15 methane source or any hydroelectric generating facility licensed or exempted by Federal Energy
16 Regulatory Commission (FERC), regardless of gross nameplate capacity, over its historical
17 generation baseline, provided the [~~commission~~] **department of energy** certifies demonstrable
18 completion of capital investments attributable to the efficiency improvements, additions of capacity,
19 or increased renewable energy output that are sufficient to, were intended to, and can be
20 demonstrated to increase annual renewable electricity output. The determination of incremental
21 production shall not be based on any operational changes at such facility but rather on capital
22 investments in efficiency improvements or additions of capacity.

23 (j) The production of electricity from a class III or IV source that has begun operation as
24 a new facility by demonstrating that 80 percent of its resulting tax basis of the source's plant and
25 equipment, but not its property and intangible assets, is derived from capital investment directly
26 related to restoring generation or increasing capacity including department permitting requirements
27 for new plants. Such production shall not qualify for class III or IV certificates. Commencing July 1,
28 2013, a class III source eligible as a class I source under this subparagraph or subparagraph (i) may
29 submit a notice to the [~~commission~~] **department of energy** electing to be a class III source instead
30 of a class I source. Once such notice is given, the production from such a source shall qualify for
31 class III certificates, provided the source meets the other requirements of a class III eligible biomass
32 technology.

33 (k) The production of electricity from any fossil-fueled generating facility that originally
34 commenced operation prior to January 1, 2006, if after January 1, 2012 such facility co-fires with
35 class I eligible biomass fuels to displace the combustion of an amount of fossil fuels. The portion of
36 the total electrical energy output that qualifies as class I from a facility in a given time period shall
37 be the fraction of electrical production derived from the combustion of biomass fuels based on the

1 heat input at the facility in that time period as determined by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of**
2 **energy** in consultation with the department. To qualify under this paragraph, the electricity
3 generation facility that co-fires with biomass fuels shall:

4 (1) Either have a quarterly average nitrogen oxide (NOx) emission rate, as measured
5 and verified under RSA 362-F:12, of less than or equal to 0.075 pounds/million British thermal units
6 (lbs/Mmbtu) or be a participant in a plan approved by the department for reductions in NOx from
7 other emission sources. The quantity of reductions required shall be the fraction of electrical
8 production derived from the combustion of biomass fuels, as determined under this paragraph,
9 multiplied by the difference between the generation unit's NOx emissions rate and the 0.075
10 lbs/Mmbtu rate. The plan shall contain reductions, in the aggregate or individually, in NOx
11 emissions from other emission sources under the jurisdiction of the department and demonstrate
12 that the reductions will be quantifiable. The department shall expeditiously review the plan and, if
13 approved, provide such information as it deems relevant to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**.
14 The application submitted to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** under RSA 362-F:11 shall
15 inform the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** of the plan and the ~~[commission]~~ **department of**
16 **energy** shall certify the source in accordance with the plan approved by the department; and

17 (2) Either have an average particulate emission rate, as measured and verified
18 under RSA 362-F:12, of less than or equal to 0.02 lbs/Mmbtu or be a participant in a plan approved
19 by the department for reductions in particulate matter emissions from emission sources owned by or
20 affiliated with the co-firing entity. The quantity of reductions required shall be the fraction of
21 electrical production derived from the combustion of biomass fuels, as determined under this
22 paragraph, multiplied by the difference between the generation unit's particulate matter emissions
23 rate and the 0.02 lbs/Mmbtu rate. The plan shall contain reductions, in the aggregate or
24 individually, in particulate matter emissions from other emission sources under the jurisdiction of
25 the department and demonstrate that the reductions will be quantifiable. The department shall
26 expeditiously review the plan and, if approved, provide such information as it deems relevant to the
27 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**. The application submitted to the ~~[commission]~~ **department**
28 **of energy** under RSA 362-F:11 shall inform the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** of the plan and
29 the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall certify the source in accordance with the plan
30 approved by the department.

31 237 Electric Renewable Energy Classes; Reference Change. Amend RSA 362-F:4, IV-VI to read
32 as follows:

33 IV.(a) Class IV (Existing Small Hydroelectric) shall include the production of electricity from
34 hydroelectric energy, provided the facility:

35 (1) Began operation prior to January 1, 2006;

36 (2) When required, has documented applicable state water quality certification
37 pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act for hydroelectric projects; and

1 (3) Either:

2 (A) Has a total nameplate capacity of 5 MWs or less as measured by the sum of
3 the nameplate capacities of all the generators at the facility and has actually installed both
4 upstream and downstream diadromous fish passages and such installations have been approved by
5 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or;

6 (B) Has a total nameplate capacity of one MW or less as measured by the sum of
7 the nameplate capacities of all generators at the facility, is in compliance with applicable Federal
8 Energy Regulatory Commission fish passage restoration requirements, and is interconnected with
9 an electric distribution system located in New Hampshire.

10 (b)(1) Notwithstanding subparagraph (a), the ~~commission~~ *department of energy* shall
11 re-certify as class IV renewable energy sources the facilities named in ~~public utilities~~ *commission*
12 order numbers 24,940 and 24,952. These facilities are:

13 (A) The Canaan, Gorham, Hooksett, and Jackman hydroelectric facilities ~~owned~~
14 ~~by Public Service Company of New Hampshire~~, which had been previously certified by the *public*
15 *utilities* commission on September 23, 2008; and

16 (B) The North Gorham and Bar Mills projects owned by FPL Energy Maine
17 Hydro, LLC which had been previously certified by the *public utilities* commission on October 30,
18 2008.

19 (2) These facilities shall not qualify or be certified as class IV renewable energy
20 sources after March 23, 2009, unless they meet the requirements of subparagraph (a). Such
21 facilities shall be eligible for class IV renewable energy certificates for all electricity generated
22 between the effective date of each facility's original certification by the *public utilities* commission
23 through March 23, 2009. Such certificates shall have the same validity as any other class IV
24 certificate issued under RSA 362-F, and may be sold, exchanged, banked, and utilized accordingly.

25 V. For good cause, and after notice and hearing, the commission may accelerate or delay by
26 up to one year, any given year's incremental increase in class I or II renewable portfolio standards
27 requirement under RSA 362-F:3.

28 VI. After notice and hearing, the ~~commission~~ *department of energy* may modify the class
29 III and IV renewable portfolio standards requirements under RSA 362-F:3 for calendar years
30 beginning January 1, 2012 such that the requirements are equal to an amount between 85 percent
31 and 95 percent of the reasonably expected potential annual output of available eligible sources after
32 taking into account demand from similar programs in other states.

33 238 Renewable Energy Certificates. Amend RSA 362-F:6, V to read as follows:

34 V. A qualified producer of useful thermal energy shall provide for the metering of useful
35 thermal energy produced in order to calculate the quantity of megawatt-hours for which renewable
36 energy certificates are qualified, and to report to the ~~public utilities commission~~ *department of*
37 *energy* under rules adopted pursuant to RSA 362-F:13. Monitoring, reporting, and calculating the

1 useful thermal energy produced in each quarter shall be expressed in megawatt-hours, where each
2 3,412,000 BTUs of useful thermal energy is equivalent to one megawatt-hour.

3 239 Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard; Information Collection; Reference Change. Amend
4 RSA 362-F:8 to read as follows:

5 362-F:8 Information Collection.

6 I. By July 1 of each year, each provider of electricity shall submit a report to the
7 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**, in a form approved by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of**
8 **energy**, documenting its compliance with the requirements of this chapter for the prior year. The
9 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** may investigate compliance and collect any information
10 necessary to verify and audit the information provided to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**
11 by providers of electricity.

12 II. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall adopt rules governing the reporting
13 requirements under paragraph I that are designed to minimize the administrative costs and burden
14 on electricity providers.

15 III. Beginning October 1, 2019 and by October 1 of each subsequent year, the ~~[commission]~~
16 **department of energy** shall disclose the information collected under paragraph I as public
17 information in the ~~[commission's]~~ **department of energy** annual report pursuant to RSA 362-F:10,

18 IV. No information shall be disclosed to the public that is confidential as defined by ~~[public utilities~~
19 ~~commission]~~ **department of energy** or NEPOOL Generation Information System rules.

20 IV. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall provide as part of the annual renewable
21 energy fund report, pursuant to RSA 362-F:10, IV, renewable portfolio standard compliance costs
22 and average electric rate impact; renewable energy certificate versus alternative compliance
23 payments comparison; and alternative compliance payments by class and provider of electricity. The
24 report shall also include the number of renewable energy certificates that were purchased during the
25 prior compliance year by class.

26 V. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall complete the rulemaking process and
27 submit requests to the administrator of the NEPOOL Generation Information System that are
28 necessary to implement this section no later than April 1, 2019.

29 240 Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard; Renewable Energy Fund. Amend RSA 362-F:10 to
30 read as follows:

31 362-F:10 Renewable Energy Fund.

32 I. There is hereby established a renewable energy fund. This **nonlapsing** special fund shall
33 be ~~[nonlapsing]~~ **continually appropriated to the commission to be expended in accordance**
34 **with this section**. The state treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited therein as provided by
35 law. Income received on investments made by the state treasurer shall also be credited to the fund.
36 All payments to be made under this section shall be deposited in the fund. Any remaining moneys
37 paid into the fund under paragraph II of this section, excluding class II moneys, shall be used by the

1 [commission] *department of energy* to support thermal and electrical renewable energy initiatives.
2 Class II moneys shall primarily be used to support solar energy technologies in New Hampshire. All
3 initiatives supported out of these funds shall be subject to audit by the [commission] *department of*
4 *energy* as deemed necessary. All fund moneys including those from class II may be used to
5 administer this chapter, but all new employee positions shall be approved by the fiscal committee of
6 the general court. No new employees shall be hired by the [commission] *department of energy* due
7 to the inclusion of useful thermal energy in class I production.

8 II. In lieu of meeting the portfolio requirements of RSA 362-F:3 for a given year if, and to the
9 extent sufficient certificates are not otherwise available at a price below the amounts specified in
10 this paragraph, an electricity provider may, at the time of report submission for that year under RSA
11 362-F:8, make payment to the [commission] *department of energy* at the following rates for each
12 megawatt-hour not met for a given class obligation through the acquisition of certificates:

13 (a) Class I-\$55, except for that portion of the class-electric renewable portfolio standards
14 to be met by qualifying renewable energy technologies producing useful thermal energy under RSA
15 362-F:3 which shall be \$25 beginning January 1, 2013.

16 (b) Class II-\$55.

17 (c) Class III-\$31.50.

18 (d) Class IV-\$26.50.

19 III.(a) Beginning in 2013, the [commission] *department of energy* shall adjust these rates
20 by January 31 of each year using the Consumer Price Index as published by the Bureau of Labor
21 Statistics of the United States Department of Labor for classes III and IV and 1/2 of such Index for
22 classes I and II.

23 (b) In lieu of the adjustments under subparagraph (a) for class III in 2015 and 2016, the
24 class rate in each of those years shall be \$45. In lieu of the adjustments under subparagraph (a) for
25 class III in 2017, 2018, and 2019, the class rate in each of those years shall be \$55.

26 (c) By January 31, 2020 the [commission] *department of energy* shall compute the
27 2020 class III rate to equal the rate that would have resulted in 2020 by the application of
28 subparagraph (a) to the 2013 rate and each subsequent year's rate to 2020.

29 (d) In 2021 and thereafter, the class III rate shall be determined by application of
30 subparagraph (a) to the prior year's rate.

31 IV. The [commission] *department of energy* shall make an annual report by October 1 of
32 each year, beginning in 2009, to the legislative oversight committee to monitor the transformation of
33 delivery of electric services established under RSA 374-F:5, the house science, technology and energy
34 committee, and the senate energy and natural resources committee detailing how the renewable
35 energy fund is being used and any recommended changes to such use. The report shall also include
36 information on the total peak generating capacity that is net energy metered under RSA 362-A:9
37 within the franchise area of each electric distribution utility, and the percentage this represents of

1 the amount that is allowed to be net metered within each franchise area. Information shall be
2 provided on net metered group host registrations and the associated customer groups, including
3 number and location of group host facilities, generation by renewable source and size of facility, and
4 group load served by such facilities.

5 V. The ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** shall make and administer a
6 one-time incentive payment of \$3 per watt of nominal generation capacity up to a maximum
7 payment of \$6,000, or 50 percent of system costs, whichever is less, per facility to any residential
8 owner of a small renewable generation facility, that would qualify as a Class I or Class II source of
9 electricity, begins operation on or after July 1, 2008, and is located on or at the owner's residence.

10 VI. Such payments shall be allocated from the renewable energy fund established in
11 paragraph I, as determined by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** to the extent funding is
12 available up to a maximum aggregate payment of 40 percent of the fund over each 2-year period
13 commencing July 1, 2010.

14 VII. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall, after notice and hearing, by order or
15 rule establish an application process for the incentive payment program established under
16 paragraph V. The application process shall include verification of costs for parts and labor,
17 certification that the equipment used meets the applicable safety standards of the American
18 National Standards Institute (ANSI) or Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or similar safety rating
19 agency, and that the facility meets local zoning regulations, and receives any required inspections.

20 VIII. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** may, after notice and hearing, by order or
21 rule, establish additional incentive or rebate programs and competitive grant opportunities for
22 renewable thermal and electric energy projects sited in New Hampshire.

23 IX. For good cause the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** may, after notice and hearing,
24 by order or rule, modify the program, including reducing the incentive level, created under RSA 362-
25 F:10, V.

26 X. Consistent with RSA 362-F:10, VI, the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall, over
27 each 2-year period commencing July 1, 2010, reasonably balance overall amounts expended,
28 allocated, or obligated from the fund, net of administrative expenditures, between residential and
29 nonresidential sectors. Funds from the renewable energy fund awarded to renewable projects in the
30 residential sector shall be in approximate proportion to the amount of electricity sold at retail to that
31 sector in New Hampshire, and the remaining funds from the renewable energy fund shall be
32 awarded to projects in the nonresidential sector which include commercial and industrial sited
33 renewable energy projects, existing generators, and developers of new commercial-scale renewable
34 generation in New Hampshire, provided no less than 15 percent of the funds shall annually benefit
35 low-moderate income residential customers, including, but not limited to, the financing or leveraging
36 of financing for low-moderate income community solar projects in manufactured housing
37 communities or in multi-family rental housing.

1 XI. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall issue requests for proposals that provide
2 renewable projects in the nonresidential sector, which include commercial and industrial sited
3 renewable energy projects, existing generators, and developers of new commercial-scale renewable
4 generation in New Hampshire, with opportunities to receive funds from the renewable energy fund
5 established under RSA 362-F:10. The requests for proposals shall provide such opportunities to
6 those renewable energy projects that are not eligible to participate in incentive and rebate programs
7 developed by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** under RSA 362-F:10, V and RSA 362-F:10,
8 VIII. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall issue a request for proposals no later than
9 March 1, 2011 and annually thereafter, and select winning projects in a timely manner.

10 241 References Change; Electric Renewable Portfolio Standards; Department of Energy. Amend
11 the following RSA provisions by replacing "commission" with "department of energy": 362-F:5, 362-
12 F:6, I-IV, 362-F:9, 362-F:11, 362-F:12, 362-F:13, 362-F:14.

13 242 Expenses of the Public Utilities Commission Against Certain Utilities. Amend RSA 363-A:1
14 to read as follows:

15 363-A:1 Ascertainment of Expenses. The ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy**
16 shall annually, after the close of the fiscal year, ascertain the total of its expenses *attributable to*
17 *support of the public utilities commission and to performance of all duties and*
18 *responsibilities transferred to the department from the public utilities commission, in*
19 *addition to the total of the public utilities commission's expenses* during such year incurred in
20 the performance of its duties relating to public utilities as defined in RSA 362 and other entities
21 subject to its regulatory and enforcement authority and relating to the office of the consumer
22 advocate. In the determination of such expenses there shall be excluded the expenses which have
23 been or may be charged and recovered under the provisions of RSA 365:37, RSA 365:38, and RSA
24 374-F:7, I.

25 243 Expenses of Public Utilities Commission Against Certain Utilities; Assessment. Amend
26 RSA 363-A:2, III-IV to read as follows:

27 III. Each entity described in subparagraph I(e) shall be assessed the sum of \$10,000 on an
28 annual basis and shall pay such assessed sum to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**. Each
29 electric load aggregator, and each aggregator of natural gas customers shall be assessed the sum of
30 \$2,000 on an annual basis and shall pay such assessed sum to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of**
31 **energy**. Each telecommunications carrier voluntarily registered with the commission shall be
32 assessed the sum of \$1,000 on an annual basis and shall pay such sum to the ~~[commission]~~
33 **department of energy**.

34 IV. The expenses of the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy and the public utilities**
35 **commission, and the office of the consumer advocate**, less the total of the assessed sums paid
36 ~~[to the commission]~~ pursuant to paragraph III, shall be allocated to each utility and other assessed
37 entity in direct proportion as the revenue calculation for such utility or other assessed entity relates

1 to the total of all such revenue calculations as a whole, except as otherwise provided in paragraph V.
2 Each such expense allocation shall be assessed against each public utility and other assessed entity
3 in an amount equal to its proportionate share as determined under this section, except that the
4 expense allocation attributed to each entity described in subparagraph I(e) shall be imputed to and
5 included in the expense allocation to each electric or natural gas distribution utility or rural electric
6 cooperative for which a certificate of deregulation is on file with the commission, in correspondence
7 to the revenue portion reported pursuant to paragraph II as having been received from the
8 distribution customers of such distribution utility or the members of such rural electric cooperative
9 for which a certificate of deregulation is on file with the commission.

10 244 Expenses of Public Utilities Commission Against Certain Utilities; Certification of
11 Assessment; Collection. Amend RSA 363-A:3 and RSA 363-A:4 to read as follows:

12 363-A:3 Certification of Assessment. It shall be the duty of the ~~[public utilities commission]~~
13 **department of energy** to calculate the amount to be assessed against each such public utility and
14 each other entity subject to assessment in accordance with RSA 363-A:1 and RSA 363-A:2. At the
15 beginning of each fiscal year, the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** shall estimate
16 ~~[its]~~ **the** total expenses for the fiscal year, and then, based on such estimate, shall calculate the
17 amount to be assessed quarterly on August 10, October 15, January 15, and April 15 of that fiscal
18 year, against each such public utility and other assessed entity in accordance with RSA 363-A:1 and
19 RSA 363-A:2. The ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** shall then make a list
20 showing the amount due on August 10, October 15, January 15, and April 15 of that fiscal year from
21 each of the several public utilities and other entities assessed under the provisions hereof, and,
22 together with a statement of the full name and mailing address of each such public utility and other
23 assessed entity, shall certify the same. After the close of each fiscal year, the ~~[public utilities~~
24 ~~commission]~~ **department of energy** shall ascertain ~~[its]~~ **the** actual total expenses in accordance
25 with RSA 363-A:1 and RSA 363-A:2, and then shall adjust the assessment for the first quarterly
26 payment of the new fiscal year for each such public utility or other assessed entity for any
27 underpayment or overpayment by each such public utility or other assessed entity for the prior fiscal
28 year.

29 363-A:4 Collection. Upon the completion of each such list, on or before August 10, October 10,
30 January 10, and April 10 of each fiscal year, the ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy**
31 shall bill each public utility and each other entity subject to assessment for the quarterly amount
32 assessed against it within 10 working days. Such bill shall be sent registered mail, and shall
33 constitute notice of assessment and demand for payment. Payment shall be made to the ~~[public~~
34 ~~utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** within 30 days after the receipt of the bill. After the
35 expiration of 30 days from the receipt of an original bill, the ~~[public utilities commission]~~
36 **department of energy** may add to the assessment a late penalty fee and may commence an action
37 at law for the recovery of the assessment. Within 30 days of the assessment for the first quarterly

1 payment, each public utility or other assessed entity which has any objection to the amount assessed
2 against it for the prior fiscal year shall file with the ~~[commission]~~ **department** its objection in
3 writing, setting out in detail the grounds upon which it is claimed that said assessment is excessive,
4 erroneous, unlawful, or invalid. If such objections are filed, the ~~[commission]~~ **department**, after
5 reasonable notice to the objecting public utility or other assessed entity, shall hold a hearing on such
6 objections, and if the ~~[commission]~~ **department** finds that said assessment or any part thereof is
7 excessive, erroneous, unlawful, or invalid, the ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall reassess the amount
8 to be paid by such public utility or other assessed entity, and shall order that an amended bill be
9 sent to such public utility or other assessed entity in accordance with such reassessment. The
10 ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** shall not commence an action at law for
11 recovery of any assessment for the first quarterly payment until any such objection has been
12 resolved.

13 245 Public Utility Recovery of Assessment Costs. Amend RSA 363-A:6, P to read as follows:

14 I. Assessment amounts determined with reference to the revenues of competitive electric
15 power suppliers and all assessments against regulated electric distribution utilities and electric
16 cooperatives for which a certificate of deregulation is on file with the ~~[commission]~~ **department**
17 shall be collected from electric customers through the distribution rates of the respective electric
18 distribution utility or rural electric cooperative for which a certificate of deregulation is on file with
19 the ~~[commission]~~ **department**; provided that an amount equal to the amount assessed directly to a
20 competitive electric power supplier under RSA 363-A:2, III shall be collected from the energy service
21 or default service customers of each electric distribution utility or rural electric cooperative for which
22 a certificate of deregulation is on file with the ~~[commission]~~ **department**.

23 246 Complaints to and Proceedings Before the Department of Energy and the Commission.
24 Amend the chapter title of RSA 365 to read as follows: Amend the chapter title of RSA 365 to read as
25 follows:

26 COMPLAINTS TO ~~[]~~ **THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**
27 AND PROCEEDINGS BEFORE ~~[]~~ **THE COMMISSION**

28 247 Complaint Against Public Utilities. Amend RSA 365:1 to read as follows:

29 365:1. Complaint Against Public Utilities. Any person may make complaint to the ~~[commission]~~
30 **department of energy** by petition setting forth in writing any thing or act claimed to have been
31 done or to have been omitted by any public utility in violation of any provision of law, or of the terms
32 and conditions of its franchises or charter, or of any order of the commission.

33 248 Complaints to the Department of Energy and Proceedings Before the Commission. Amend
34 RSA 365:2 through RSA 365:7 to read as follows:

35 365:2 Order. Thereupon the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall cause a copy of said
36 complaint to be forwarded to the public utility complained of, which may be accompanied by an

1 order, requiring that the matters complained of be satisfied, or that the charges be answered in
2 writing within a time to be specified by the ~~[commission]~~ **department**.

3 365:3 Reparation. If the public utility complained of shall make reparation for any injury
4 alleged and shall cease to commit or to permit the violation of law, franchise, or order charged in the
5 complaint, and shall notify the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** of that fact before the time
6 allowed for answer, the ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall not be required to take any further action
7 upon the charges.

8 365:4 Investigation. If the charges are not satisfied as provided in RSA 365:3, and it shall
9 appear to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** that there are reasonable grounds therefor, it
10 shall investigate the same in such manner and by such means as it shall deem proper ~~[and, after
11 notice and hearing, take such action within its powers as the facts justify]~~. **After investigation, the
12 department of energy may bring proceedings on its own motion before the public utilities
13 commission, with respect to any complaint or violation of any provision of law, rule, terms
14 and conditions of its franchises or charter, or any order of the commission.**

15 365:5 Independent Inquiry. The commission, on its own motion or upon petition of a public
16 utility, **and the department of energy** may investigate or make inquiry in a manner to be
17 determined by it as to any rate charged or proposed or as to any act or thing having been done, or
18 having been omitted or proposed by any public utility; and ~~[the commission or]~~ shall make such
19 inquiry in regard to any rate charged or proposed or to any act or thing having been done or having
20 been omitted or proposed by any such utility in violation of any provision of law or order of the
21 commission **or the department**.

22 365:6 Inspection. ~~[The]~~ **Both the commission and the department of energy** may at any time
23 personally, or by its experts or agents, inspect the property, works, system, plant, devices, appliances
24 and methods used by any public utility, or its books, papers and records.

25 365:7 Authority to Inspect. Any expert or agent of the **department of energy or the**
26 **commission, who shall make a demand on behalf of the commission or the department** to be
27 allowed to inspect as provided in RSA 365:6, shall produce written authority to make such inspection
28 signed by the ~~[secretary or assistant secretary or some member]~~ **chairperson** of the commission **or**
29 **the commissioner of the department of energy**.

30 249 Proceedings Before the Public Utilities Commission. Amend RSA 365:8, I(j) to read as
31 follows:

32 (j) Standards and procedures for determination and recovery of rate ~~[ease]~~ **proceedings**
33 expenses.

34 250 Proceedings Before the Public Utilities Commission. Amend RSA 365:8, II to read as
35 follows:

36 II. Where the commission has adopted rules in conformity with this section, ~~[complaints to
37 and]~~ proceedings before the commission shall not be subject to RSA 541-A:29 or RSA 541-A:29-a.

1 251 Repeal. The following are repealed:

2 I. RSA 365:8-a, relative to suppliers of natural gas an aggregators of natural gas customers.

3 II. RSA 374-F:4, III, relative to certain compliance filings filed with the public utilities
4 commission.

5 252 Complaints to Department of Energy and Public Utilities Commission; Expense of
6 Investigations; Rate Proceeding. Amend RSA 365:37 and 365:38 to read as follows:

7 365:37 Expense of Investigations.

8 I. Whenever any investigation *by the commission or the department of energy* shall be
9 necessary to enable the commission to pass upon any petition for authority to issue stocks, bonds,
10 notes, or other evidence of indebtedness, for authority to operate as a public utility or to expand
11 operations as a public utility, to make extensions into new territory, to discontinue service, to
12 condemn property for flowage rights and dam construction, or for authority to sell, consolidate,
13 merge, transfer, or lease the plant, works, or system of any public utility, or any part of the same, or
14 for any other matter which requires the ~~[commission's]~~ approval *of the commission or the*
15 *department of energy*, the petitioner shall pay to the ~~[commission]~~ *department of energy* the
16 expense involved in the investigation of the matters covered by said petition, including the amounts
17 expended for experts, accountants, or other assistants. Such expense shall not include any part of
18 the salaries or expenses of the commissioners or of employees of the commission or *department of*
19 *energy or*, unless the proceeding is being conducted pursuant to RSA 38, the fees of experts
20 testifying as to values in condemnation proceedings.

21 II. Whenever the commission institutes a proceeding, or when more than one utility subject
22 to the jurisdiction of the commission shall be involved in a proceeding in which the commission *or*
23 *the department of energy* requires the assistance of experts, accountants or other assistants,
24 regardless of whether they petitioned the commission in the first instance, the commission *and the*
25 *department of energy* may assess the costs of experts, accountants or other assistants hired by the
26 commission *or the department of energy* against the utilities and any other parties to the
27 proceeding. The commission *and the department of energy* shall not, however, assess any such
28 costs against the office of the consumer advocate or against any voluntary corporation, not-for-profit
29 organization, or any municipality unless the municipality is involved in a proceeding before the
30 commission pursuant to RSA 38. In the case of a utility, the assessment of those costs shall be based
31 on the annual revenues of the participating utilities in the same manner as issued in assessing the
32 annual operating expenses of the commission *and the department of energy*, or as appropriate
33 and equitable on a case by case basis. In the case of a party who is not a utility, the assessment of
34 those costs shall be as appropriate and equitable on a case by case basis. Such expenses shall not
35 include any part of the salaries or expenses of the commissioners or of employees of the commission
36 *or of employees of the department of energy* or, unless the proceeding is being conducted
37 pursuant to RSA 38, the fees of experts testifying as to values in condemnation proceedings.

1 III. For investigations or proceedings involving the acquisition, merger, transfer, sale, or
2 lease of the works or system of a public utility, the commission *and the department of energy*
3 shall not enter into a contract with experts, accountants, or other assistants in an amount greater
4 than [~~\$250,000~~] **\$10,000**, including any contract extension, without the approval of the governor and
5 council. For all other investigations or proceedings, the commission *and the department of energy*
6 shall not enter into a contract with experts, accountants, or other assistants in an amount greater
7 than [~~\$100,000~~] **\$10,000**, including any contract extension, without the approval of governor and
8 council.

9 365:38 Rate Proceeding. Whenever any investigation *or proceeding* shall be necessary to
10 enable the commission to pass upon the reasonableness of the rates or charges by a public utility, the
11 utility [~~upon order of the commission,~~] shall pay to the [~~commission its~~] *department of energy the*
12 expenses involved in the investigation, including the amounts expended by [~~it~~] *the commission and*
13 *the department of energy* for attorneys, experts, accountants, or other assistants, but not
14 including any part of the salaries or expenses of the commissioners or of employees of the
15 commission *or department of energy*; provided, that the amount charged to the utility [~~by the~~
16 ~~commission~~] in any such case shall not exceed 3/4 of one percent of the existing valuation of the
17 utility investigated, such expenses with 6 percent interest to be charged by the utility to operating
18 expenses and amortized over such period as the commission shall deem proper and allowed for in the
19 rates to be charged by the utility.

20 253 Complaints to Department of Energy and Public Utilities Commission; Penalty Against
21 Utility. Amend RSA 365:41 to read as follows:

22 365:41 Penalty Against Utility. Any public utility which shall violate any provisions of this title,
23 or fails, omits or neglects to obey, observe or comply with any order, direction or requirement of the
24 commission *or the department of energy*, shall be subject to a civil penalty, as determined by the
25 commission, not to exceed \$250,000 or 2.5 percent of the annual gross revenue that the utility
26 received from sales in the state, whichever is lower. Such penalties shall be applied to the benefit of
27 the utility's ratepayers through a credit to bills, or, if the credit is of an amount determined by the
28 commission to be insignificant on a per customer basis, to programs that benefit low income
29 ratepayers. No portion of any fine, nor any costs associated with an administrative or court
30 proceeding which results in a fine pursuant to this section, shall be considered by the commission in
31 fixing any temporary, permanent, or emergency rates or charges of such utility.

32 254 Affiliates of Public Utilities; Department of Energy. Amend RSA 366:2 through 366:9 to
33 read as follows:

34 366:2 Sale of Securities to or by Employees. No public utility shall, without the approval of the
35 [~~commission~~] *department of energy*, permit any employee to sell, offer for sale, or solicit the
36 purchase of any security issued by an affiliate during such hours as such employee is engaged to
37 perform any duty of such public utility; nor shall any public utility by any means or device

1 whatsoever require any employee to purchase or contract to purchase any of its securities or those of
2 any other person or corporation; nor shall any public utility require any employee to permit the
3 deduction from his wages or salary of any sum as a payment or to be applied as a payment on any
4 purchase or contract to purchase any security of such public utility or of any other person.

5 366:3 Filing of Contracts. The original or a verified copy of any contract or arrangement and of
6 any modification thereof or a verified summary of any unwritten contract or arrangement, the
7 consideration of which exceeds \$500, hereafter entered into between a public utility and an affiliate
8 providing for the furnishing of managerial, supervisory, construction, engineering, accounting,
9 purchasing, financial, or any other services either to or by a public utility or an affiliate shall be filed
10 by the public utility with the [commission] *department of energy* within 10 days after the date on
11 which the contract is executed or the arrangement entered into. The [commission] *department* may
12 also require a public utility to file in such form as the [commission] *department* may require full
13 information with respect to any purchase from or sale to an affiliate, whether or not made in
14 pursuance of a continuing contract or arrangement.

15 366:4 Failure to File. Any contract or arrangement not filed with the [commission] *department*
16 *of energy* pursuant to RSA 366:3 shall be unenforceable in any court in this state and payments
17 thereunder may be disallowed by the [commission] *department* unless the later filing thereof is
18 approved in writing by the [commission] *department*. *The commission shall disallow payment*
19 *if recommended by the department.*

20 366:5 Investigation and Proof. The [commission] *department of energy* shall have full power
21 and authority to investigate any such contract, arrangement, purchase, or sale and ~~if~~ *initiate a*
22 *proceeding related thereto before the commission. If the commission after notice and hearing*
23 *shall find any such contract, arrangement, purchase, or sale to be unjust or unreasonable, the*
24 *commission may make such reasonable order relating thereto as the public good requires. In any*
25 *such investigation, the burden shall be on the public utility and affiliate to prove the reasonableness*
26 *of any such contract, arrangement, purchase, or sale with, from, or to an affiliate. If the public*
27 *utility shall fail to satisfy the commission of the reasonableness of any such contract, arrangement,*
28 *purchase, or sale, the commission may disapprove the same and disallow payments thereunder or*
29 *such part of any such payment as the commission shall find to be unjust or unreasonable. No*
30 *payment disallowed by the commission shall be capitalized or included as an operating cost of the*
31 *public utility in the fixing of rates or as an asset in fixing a rate base. If in any such investigation*
32 *the public utility or affiliate shall unreasonably refuse to comply with any request of the commission*
33 *or the department for information with respect to relevant accounts and records, whether of such*
34 *public utility or any affiliate, any portion of which may be applicable to any transaction under*
35 *investigation, so that such parts thereof as the commission or the department may deem material*
36 *may be made part of the record, such refusal shall justify the commission in disapproving the*
37 *transaction under investigation and disallowing payments in pursuance thereof.*

1 366:6 Summary Order in Certain Cases. If as a result of an investigation *or proceeding* in
2 accordance with RSA 366:5 the commission shall find that any public utility is making any payment
3 or about to make any payment or doing or about to do any other thing which substantially threatens
4 or impairs the ability of the public utility to render adequate service at reasonable rates or otherwise
5 to discharge its duty to the public, the commission may apply to the superior court for an order
6 directing the public utility to cease making any such payment or doing such other thing; and,
7 thereupon, the court shall make such order as the public good may require.

8 366:7 Disallowance of Charges Under Existing Contracts. In any proceeding whether upon the
9 *department's initiation or* commission's own motion or upon complaint involving the rates or
10 practices of any public utility, the commission may disallow the inclusion in the accounts of a public
11 utility of any payments or compensation to an affiliate for any services rendered, or property
12 furnished, under existing contracts or arrangements with an affiliate unless such public utility shall
13 establish the reasonableness of such payment or compensation.

14 366:8 Annual Reports. Every public utility annually reporting to the commission *or*
15 *department of energy* under RSA 374 shall also annually report the name and address of, and the
16 number of shares held by, its officers and directors and each holder of one percent or more of the
17 voting capital stock of the reporting public utility according to its records.

18 366:9 Information Concerning Control. The commission *or department of energy* may also
19 require such other information as to the direct or indirect control of a public utility or affiliate from a
20 public utility, affiliate, or other person as may be reasonably required for the effective enforcement of
21 this chapter.

22 255 References Change; Service Equipment of Public Utilities; Department of Energy. Amend
23 the following RSA provisions by replacing "commission" with "department of energy": 370:2, 370:8,
24 370:9.

25 256 Service Equipment of Public Utilities; Units of Service. Amend RSA 370:1 to read as
26 follows:

27 370:1 Units of Service. The ~~[public utilities commission]~~ *department of energy* may ascertain,
28 determine and fix, for each kind of public utility, suitable and convenient standard commercial units
29 of service, product or commodity, which units shall be lawful units for the purposes of this chapter.

30 257 Service Equipment of Public Utilities; Department of Energy. Amend RSA 370:3 through
31 370:7 to read as follows:

32 370:3 Meters. The ~~[commission]~~ *department of energy* may ascertain, determine and fix
33 reasonable rules, regulations, specifications and standards to secure the accuracy of all meters and
34 appliances for measurement, and every public utility is required to carry into effect all orders issued
35 by the ~~[commission]~~ *department* relative thereto.

36 370:4 Service Inspections. The ~~[commission]~~ *department of energy* may provide for the
37 inspection of the manner in which every public utility conforms to the reasonable regulations

1 prescribed by the ~~[commission]~~ **department** for examination and testing of its service, product or
2 commodity, and for the measurement thereof, and may supplement such inspections by
3 examinations and testing.

4 370:5 Inspection of Meters. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** may provide for the
5 inspection of the manner in which every public utility has carried into effect the reasonable rules,
6 regulations, specifications and standards fixed by ~~[orders of the commission]~~ **rules adopted by the**
7 **department** relative thereto, and may examine and test any meters and appliances for
8 measurements under such reasonable rules and regulations as it may prescribe.

9 370:6 Testing Appliances. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** may provide for the examination and
10 testing of any appliances used for the measuring of any service, product or commodity of a public
11 utility.

12 370:7 At Consumer's Request. Any consumer or user may have any such appliance tested by the
13 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** may declare and establish
14 reasonable fees to be paid for examining and testing such appliances, on the request of consumers or
15 users, the fee to be paid by the consumer or user at the time of his request; but, if the measuring
16 appliance be found unreasonably defective or incorrect to the disadvantage of the consumer or user,
17 the ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall repay such fee to the consumer or user and collect the same
18 from the public utility.

19 258 Rights in Public Waters and Lands; License by Notification of New Attachments on Existing
20 Utility Poles. Amend RSA 371:17-a to read as follows:

21 371:17-a License by Notification of New Attachments on Existing Utility Poles. Whenever it is
22 necessary, in order to meet the reasonable requirements of service to the public, that any public
23 utility other than electric or gas should construct a cable, conduit, or wires and fixtures upon an
24 existing line of poles or towers over, under, or across any of the public waters of this state, or over,
25 under, or across any of the land owned by this state, the public utility shall file written notification
26 with the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** for a license to construct and maintain such cable,
27 conduit, or wires and fixtures. In this section, "public waters" means all ponds of more than 10
28 acres, tidewater bodies, and such streams or portions thereof as the commission may prescribe.

29 Every corporation and individual desiring to cross any public waters or land for the purposes of this
30 section shall file written notification in the same manner prescribed for a public utility. The
31 notification shall include a description of the specific geographic and pole locations of the crossing
32 and verification that there is a valid pole attachment license or that an application for a pole
33 attachment license has been submitted to the utility or utilities that own such poles or towers. The
34 notification shall include an affidavit signed by the responsible officer confirming that the crossing
35 shall be completed in compliance with such pole attachment license and the National Electrical
36 Safety Code. Upon receipt of such notification, no further inquiries or investigations by the
37 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall be required in granting the requested license.

1 259 Rights in Public Waters and Lands; Hearing; Order. Amend RSA 371:20 to read as follows:
2 371:20 Hearing; Order. *Whenever a hearing shall be necessary*, the commission shall hear
3 all parties interested; and, in case it shall find that the license petitioned for, subject to such
4 modifications and conditions, if any, and for such period as the commission may determine, may be
5 exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in said waters or lands, it shall render
6 judgment granting such license. Provided, however, that such license may be granted *by the*
7 *department of energy* without hearing when all interested parties are in agreement and in cases
8 involving filings made under RSA 371:17-a and RSA 371:17-b. [~~The executive director of the~~
9 ~~commission may issue licenses under RSA 371:17-a and RSA 371:17-b.~~]

10 260 References Changed; Proceedings to Acquire Property or Rights; Rights in Public Waters
11 and Lands; Department of Energy. Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing "commission"
12 with "department of energy": 371:17, 371:18, 371:19.

13 261 Extent of Power. Amend RSA 374:3 to read as follows:

14 374:3 Extent of Power. The public utilities commission *and department of energy* shall have
15 the general supervision of all public utilities and the plants owned, operated or controlled by the
16 same so far as necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this title.

17 262 Supervisory Power of Department of Energy and Public Utilities Commission. Amend the
18 subdivision heading following RSA 374:3^b to read as follows:

19 Supervisory Power of Department of [~~Transportation~~]
20 *Energy and Public Utilities Commission*

21 263 Duties. Amend RSA 374:4-374:5-a to read as follows:

22 374:4 Duty to Keep Informed. The commission *and the department of energy* shall have
23 power, and it shall be [~~its~~] *their* duty, to keep informed as to all public utilities in the state, their
24 capitalization, franchises and the manner in which the lines and property controlled or operated by
25 them are managed and operated, not only with respect to the safety, adequacy and accommodation
26 offered by their service, but also with respect to their compliance with all provisions of law, orders of
27 the commission and charter requirements.

28 374:5 Additions and Improvements. For the purpose of enabling the commission *and the*
29 *department of energy* to perform [~~its~~] *their* duty to keep informed as provided in RSA 374:4, every
30 public utility, before making any addition, extension, or capital improvement to its fixed property in
31 this state, except under emergency conditions, shall report to the commission *and the department*
32 *of energy* the probable cost of such addition, extension, or capital improvement whenever the
33 probable cost thereof exceeds a reasonable amount to be prescribed by general or special order of the
34 commission. For this purpose, the commission may classify public utilities according to the amount
35 of their respective fixed capital accounts, and prescribe a reasonable limitation for each such
36 classification. In no case shall the minimum amount prescribed be less than 1/4 of one percent of
37 such fixed capital account as of December 31 of the preceding year, or \$10,000, whichever is the

1 smaller amount. Reports shall be filed in writing [~~with the commission~~] within such reasonable time
2 as may be prescribed by the commission before starting actual construction on any addition,
3 extension, or improvement. The commission shall have discretion to exclude the cost of any such
4 addition, extension, or capital improvement from the rate base of said utility where such written
5 report thereof shall not have been filed in advance as herein provided.

6 374:5-a Power to Hire Consultants Firm. The commission *and the department of energy* may
7 utilize and employ a consultant firm to provide it with technical assistance in evaluating cost factors
8 relating to the effective use of substantial investments of utilities regulated by the commission.

9 264 Investigation of Other Utilities; Orders; Violation. Amend RSA 374:7-374:7-a to read as
10 follows:

11 374:7 Investigation of Other Utilities; Orders. The commission *and the department of energy*
12 shall have power to investigate and ascertain, from time to time, the quality of gas supplied by
13 public utilities and the methods employed by public utilities in manufacturing, transmitting or
14 supplying gas or electricity for light, heat or power, or in transmitting telephone and telegraph
15 messages, or supplying water, and, after notice and hearing thereon, shall have power to order all
16 reasonable and just improvements and extensions in service or methods.

17 374:7-a Violation.

18 I. Any person who knowingly or willfully violates any provision of RSA 370:2 or any
19 standards or rules adopted under it by the public utilities commission *or the department of*
20 *energy*, relative to gas pipelines and liquefied petroleum gas systems pursuant to the Natural Gas
21 Pipeline Safety Act, shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed the maximum civil penalty under
22 49 U.S.C. section 60122(a), as amended.

23 II. Any person who otherwise violates any provision of RSA 370:2 or any standards or rules
24 adopted under it by the public utilities commission *or the department of energy*, relative to gas
25 pipelines and liquefied petroleum gas systems pursuant to the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act,
26 shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed the maximum civil penalty under 49 U.S.C. section
27 60122(a), as amended.

28 III. *The department of energy shall assess and enforce civil penalties related to this*
29 *section.* Any civil penalty assessed under this section may be [~~compromised~~] *appealed to the*
30 *public utilities commission, and the commission may uphold, reverse, or compromise such*
31 *civil penalty* [~~by the public utilities commission~~]. In determining the amount of the penalty, *the*
32 *outcome of an appeal*, or the amount agreed upon in compromise, the appropriateness of the
33 penalty to the size of the business of the person charged, the gravity of the violation, the good faith of
34 the person charged in attempting to achieve compliance, after notification of a violation, the degree
35 of culpability of the person, the history of prior violations, the effect of the penalty on the person, and
36 any other identifiable factor related to the circumstances of the person and the nature and
37 circumstances of the violation, shall be considered. The amount of the penalty, when finally

1 determined, or the amount agreed upon in compromise, may be deducted from any sums owing by
2 the state to the person charged or may be recovered in a civil action in the state courts.

3 265 Public Utilities; Reports; Filing. Amend RSA 374:15 to read as follows:

4 374:15 Filing. Every public utility shall file with the commission *and the department of*
5 *energy* reports at such times, verified by oath in such manner, and setting forth such statistics and
6 facts, as may be required by the commission *or the department of energy*.

7 266 Public Utilities; Reports. Amend RSA 374:17-374:19 to read as follows:

8 374:17 Neglect to Report. If any public utility shall neglect or refuse to make and file any report
9 within a time specified by the commission *or the department of energy*, or shall neglect or refuse
10 to make specific answer to any question lawfully asked by the commission *or the department of*
11 *energy*, it shall forfeit to the state the sum of \$100 for each day it shall continue to be in default with
12 respect to such report or answer, unless it shall be excused [~~by the commission~~] from making such
13 report or answer, or unless the time for making the same shall be extended [~~by the commission~~].

14 374:18 Production of Books, Etc. The commission, by order, *or the department of energy*, may
15 require any public utility to produce within the state, at such time and place as it may designate,
16 any accounts, records, memoranda, books, or papers kept in any office or place without the state, or
17 verified copies thereof, in order that an examination thereof may be made by *or under the*
18 *direction of* the commission or [~~under its direction~~] *the department of energy*.

19 374:19 False Statements, Etc. No public utility shall willfully make any false statement or false
20 entry in any report to the commission *or the department of energy*, or in any answer to any
21 question lawfully asked by the commission *or the department of energy*.

22 267 Service Territories; Department of Energy Jurisdiction. Amend RSA 374:22-e to read as
23 follows:

24 374:22-e Service Territories; [~~Commission~~] *Department of Energy* Jurisdiction.

25 I. If 2 or more telephone utilities find that they provide the same service in the same area or
26 that existing maps create overlapping service territories, the [~~commission~~] *department of energy*,
27 upon application by one or both of the affected utilities, shall define, alter, or establish service
28 territories. In establishing or altering service territories, the [~~commission~~] *department of energy*
29 shall consider the following:

- 30 (a) Existing service areas;
- 31 (b) Any voluntary agreements between or among 2 or more such telephone utilities
32 which define the service territories of those utilities;
- 33 (c) Consistency with the orderly development of the region;
- 34 (d) Natural geographical boundaries;
- 35 (e) Compatibility with the interests of all consumers; and
- 36 (f) All other relevant factors.

1 II. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall have power to exercise the jurisdiction
2 conferred in this section only after due notice to all interested parties and hearing. After
3 consideration of the factors established by paragraph I of this section, and after making findings that
4 the service territories established or altered are consistent with the public good, the ~~[commission]~~
5 **department of energy** shall establish the service territory of each telephone utility. The service
6 territory thus established shall be sufficiently definite and precise so that its boundaries may be
7 accurately determined.

8 268 Service Territories Served by Certain Telephone Utilities. Amend RSA 374:22-g to read as
9 follows:

10 374:22-g Service Territories Served by Certain Telephone Utilities.

11 I. To the extent consistent with federal law and notwithstanding any other provision of law
12 to the contrary, all telephone franchise areas served by a telephone utility that provides local
13 exchange service, subject to the jurisdiction of the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**, shall be
14 nonexclusive. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**, upon petition or on its own motion, shall
15 have the authority to authorize the providing of telecommunications services, including local
16 exchange services, and any other telecommunications services, by more than one provider, in any
17 service territory, when the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** finds and determines that it is
18 consistent with the public good unless prohibited by federal law.

19 II. In determining the public good, the commission shall consider the interests of
20 competition with other factors including, but not limited to, fairness; economic efficiency; universal
21 service; carrier of last resort obligations; the incumbent utility's opportunity to realize a reasonable
22 return on its investment; and the recovery from competitive providers of expenses incurred by the
23 incumbent utility to benefit competitive providers, taking into account the proportionate benefit or
24 savings, if any, derived by the incumbent as a result of incurring such expenses.

25 III. The **department of energy** shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the
26 enforcement of this section.

27 269 Shared Tenant Services Authorized; Limited Regulation; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 374:22-1
28 and m to read as follows:

29 374:22-1 Shared Tenant Services Authorized; Limited Regulation.

30 I. The ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** shall authorize the provision of
31 shared tenant services by providers meeting the minimum requirements established by the
32 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** to operate shared tenant services networks.

33 II. Providers of shared tenant services shall be subject to the following limited regulation by
34 the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**:

35 (a) Providers of shared tenant services shall disclose to tenants and prospective tenants
36 all pricing information relative to their services in the manner prescribed by the ~~[commission]~~
37 **department of energy**.

1 (b) Providers of shared tenant services shall disclose to tenants and prospective tenants
2 that they can at their option obtain basic exchange and other service from an authorized local
3 telephone utility rather than from the shared tenant services provider.

4 (c) Without penalty and in accordance with the rules of the ~~[commission]~~ **department of**
5 **energy**, telephone number retention and access to telecommunications services shall be permitted by
6 providers of shared tenant services and authorized local telephone utilities into and out of shared
7 tenant services properties.

8 (d) The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall have jurisdiction to hear matters
9 pertaining to the unauthorized provision of shared tenant services, violations of ~~[commission]~~
10 **department** rules relating to shared tenant services, and customer complaints against shared
11 tenant services providers.

12 374:22-m Rulemaking. The ~~[public utilities commission]~~ **department of energy** shall adopt
13 rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to:

14 I. Minimum requirements for shared tenant services, including disclosure of available
15 options and terms and prices of shared tenant services.

16 II. Customer access to services of authorized local telephone utilities.

17 III. Telephone number retention and recovery of costs, if any, associated with number
18 retention.

19 IV. The charges a local telephone utility establishes for a shared tenant services provider to
20 purchase services for use by the provider's tenants.

21 V. Procedures for complaints to the ~~[commission]~~ **department** regarding shared tenant
22 services.

23 270 Regulation of Competitive Telecommunications Providers Limited; Affordable Telephone
24 Service; Public Interest Payphones. Amend RSA 374:22-o-374:22-p to read as follows:

25 374:22-o Regulation of Competitive Telecommunications Providers Limited. Any person or
26 business entity authorized by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** to engage in business as a
27 competitive local-exchange carrier and any competitive toll provider having less than a 10 percent
28 share of toll revenue in New Hampshire shall not be required to seek prior ~~[commission]~~
29 **department** approval of financings or corporate organizational changes, including, without
30 limitation, mergers, acquisitions, corporate restructurings, issuance or transfer of securities, or the
31 sale, lease, or other transfer of assets or control. Nothing in this section shall exempt any such
32 competitive telecommunications service provider from such advance notice as the ~~[commission]~~
33 **department** may prescribe or from the requirements of RSA 374:28-a or RSA 378:46.

34 374:22-p Affordable Telephone Service; Rulemaking; Standards.

35 I.(a) For the purposes of this section, "Federal Telecommunications Act" means the federal
36 Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56.

37 (b) For purposes of this section "basic service" means:

- 1 (1) Safe and reliable single-party, single line voice service;
- 2 (2) The ability to receive all noncollect calls, at telephone lines capable of receiving
- 3 calls, without additional charge;
- 4 (3) The ability to complete calls to any other telephone line, which is capable of
- 5 receiving calls, in the state;
- 6 (4) The opportunity to presubscribe to interLATA toll carriers;
- 7 (5) The opportunity to presubscribe to intraLATA toll carriers;
- 8 (6) Dialing parity;
- 9 (7) Number portability;
- 10 (8) Enhanced 911, pursuant to the requirements of the department of safety, bureau
- 11 of emergency communications, or its successor agency;
- 12 (9) Access to statewide directory assistance;
- 13 (10) Telecommunications relay service (TRS);
- 14 (11) A published directory listing, at the customer's election;
- 15 (12) A caller identification blocking option, on a per-call basis;
- 16 (13) A caller identification line blocking option that is available to all customers
- 17 without a recurring charge and is provided upon customer request without charge to customers who
- 18 have elected nonpublished telephone numbers, and is available without a nonrecurring charge to
- 19 customers who certify that caller identification threatens their health or safety and is available
- 20 without a nonrecurring charge when requested with installation of basic service;
- 21 (14) A blocking option for pay-per-call calls, such as blocking all 900 or all 976 area
- 22 code calls;
- 23 (15) The ability to report service problems to the customer's basic service provider on
- 24 a 24-hour basis, 7 days a week; and
- 25 (16) Automatic Number Identification (ANI) to other carriers which accurately
- 26 identifies the telephone number of the calling party.

27 (c) Any combination of basic service along with any other service or feature offered by
28 the telecommunications service provider is nonbasic service and shall not be regulated by the
29 commission.

30 (d) Any telecommunications service provider which is not an incumbent local exchange
31 carrier shall not be required to provide basic service.

32 II. Subject to RSA 362:6, the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall require every
33 provider of intrastate telephone service to participate in outreach programs designed to increase the
34 number of low-income telephone customers on the network through increased participation in any
35 universal service program approved by the ~~[commission]~~ **department** and statutorily established by
36 the legislature. Statewide outreach programs shall continue until further order of the ~~[commission]~~
37 **department**.

1 III. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall seek to ensure that affordable basic
2 telephone services are available to consumers throughout all areas of the state at reasonably
3 comparable rates.

4 IV.(a) The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall ~~[develop-draft]~~ **maintain and**
5 **update** rules to implement this section and shall, after the statutory establishment of a universal
6 service fund, require every provider of intrastate telephone services to contribute to a state universal
7 service fund to support programs consistent with the goals of applicable provisions of this title and
8 the Federal Telecommunications Act.

9 (b) If the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**, upon statutory establishment of a
10 universal service program, establishes a state universal service fund pursuant to this section, the
11 ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall contract with an appropriate independent fiscal agent that is not a
12 state entity to serve as administrator of the state universal service fund. Program administration
13 shall be designed in the most cost-effective manner possible. Funds contributed to a state universal
14 service fund are not state funds and therefore are not subject to provisions of law relating to the
15 general fund. Rules and any state universal service fund requirements established by legislative
16 enactment and by the ~~[commission]~~ **department** pursuant to this section shall:

17 (1) Be reasonably designed to maximize federal assistance available to the state for
18 universal service purposes.

19 (2) Meet the state's obligations under the Federal Telecommunications Act.

20 (3) Be consistent with the goals of the Federal Telecommunications Act.

21 (4) Ensure that any requirements regarding contributions to a state universal
22 service fund be nondiscriminatory and competitively neutral.

23 (5) Require explicit identification on customer's bills of contributions to and in the
24 event of fund termination, refunds from, any state universal service fund established pursuant to the
25 section.

26 (6) Allow consideration in appropriate rulemaking proceedings of contributions to
27 and in the event of fund termination, refunds from, any state universal service fund established
28 pursuant to this section.

29 (c) For purposes of this section, "providers of intrastate telephone services" includes
30 providers of radio paging service and, subject to the provisions of the Federal Communications Act as
31 amended and codified at 47 U.S.C. sec. 332(c)(3)(A), mobile telecommunications services.

32 (d) Prior to requiring that providers of intrastate telephone service contribute to a state
33 universal service fund and prior to statutory establishment of a universal service fund, the
34 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall report to the general court its determination of the
35 expected program costs, the amount and type of the funding mechanism, the number of people
36 proposed to be served, the level of proposed service, and the administrative design of the proposed
37 fund.

1 V. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**, annually, shall assess the penetration rate of
2 basic telephone services. If this penetration rate ever falls below the national average penetration
3 rate, the ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall commence an investigation and take steps to enhance
4 telephone market penetration. The ~~[commission]~~ **department**, annually, shall assess the success of
5 any action taken by the ~~[commission]~~ **department** to achieve the purpose of this section. The public
6 policy goal should be to raise the low income penetration level as close as reasonably possible to the
7 statewide average.

8 VI, VII. [Repealed.]

9 VIII. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 374:1-a:

10 (a) Incumbent local exchange carriers, whether qualified as an excepted local exchange
11 carrier or otherwise, may not discontinue residential basic service, regardless of technology used, in
12 any portion of their franchise area unless the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** determines that
13 the public good will not be adversely affected by such withdrawal of service;

14 (b) Rates for basic service of incumbent local exchange carriers which qualify as
15 excepted local exchange carriers may not increase by more than 5 percent for Lifeline Telephone
16 Assistance customers and by more than 10 percent for all other basic service customers in each of
17 the 8 years after the effective date of this paragraph or the effective date of an existing alternative
18 plan of regulation, except for additional rate adjustments, with ~~[public utilities commission]~~
19 **department of energy** review and approval, to reflect changes in federal, state, or local government
20 taxes, mandates, rules, regulations, or statutes; and

21 (c) Incumbent local exchange carriers which qualify as excepted local exchange carriers
22 shall report the rates for basic service to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** within 60 days of
23 the effective date of this paragraph and upon any changes to the rates.

24 271 Pole Attachments. Amend RSA 374:34-a to read as follows:

25 374:34-a Pole Attachments.

26 I. In this subdivision, a "pole" means any pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way that is used for
27 wire, communications, or electricity distribution and is owned in whole or in part by a public utility,
28 including a rural electric cooperative for which a certificate of deregulation is on file with the
29 commission pursuant to RSA 301:57.

30 II. Whenever a pole owner is unable to reach agreement with a party seeking pole
31 attachments, the commission shall regulate and enforce rates, charges, terms, and conditions for
32 such pole attachments, with regard to the types of attachments regulated under 47 U.S.C. section
33 224, to provide that such rates, charges, terms, and conditions are just and reasonable. This
34 authority shall include but not be limited to the state regulatory authority referenced in 47 U.S.C.
35 section 224(c).

36 III. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A to carry
37 out the provisions of this section, including appropriate formula or formulae for apportioning costs.

1 IV. In exercising its authority under this subdivision, the ~~[commission]~~ **department of**
2 **energy** shall consider the interests of the subscribers and users of the services offered via such
3 attachments, as well as the interests of the consumers of any pole owner providing such
4 attachments.

5 V. Nothing in this subdivision shall prevent parties from entering into pole attachment
6 agreements voluntarily, without commission approval.

7 VI. Any pole owner shall provide nondiscriminatory access to its poles for the types of
8 attachments regulated under this subdivision. A pole owner may deny access to its poles on a
9 nondiscriminatory basis where there is insufficient capacity and for reasons of safety, reliability, and
10 generally applicable engineering purposes.

11 VII. The commission shall have the authority to hear and resolve complaints concerning
12 rates, charges, terms, conditions, voluntary agreements, or any denial of access relative to pole
13 attachments.

14 VIII. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall retain its authority to regulate the
15 safety, vegetation management, emergency response, and storm restoration requirements for poles,
16 conduits, ducts, pipes, pole attachments, wires, cables, and related plant and equipment of public
17 utilities and other private entities located within public rights-of-way and on, over, or under state
18 lands and water bodies.

19 272 Repeals. The following are repealed:

20 I. RSA 374:35, relative to transmitting electricity out of the state.

21 II. RSA 374:36, relative to investigations and orders.

22 273 Investigation of Accidents. Amend RSA 374:37-374:40 to read as follows:

23 374:37 By ~~[Commission]~~ **Department**. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall
24 investigate the causes of all accidents in connection with the operation of public utilities in the state,
25 which, in the opinion of the commission **or the department of energy**, ought to be investigated.

26 374:38 Manner. Any such investigation may be made by the ~~[full commission]~~ **department of**
27 **energy** ~~[or by a single commissioner, or by an agent of the commission,]~~ in such manner as the
28 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** may determine.

29 374:39 Reports. Every public utility shall report to the **department of energy and the**
30 **commission** accidents occurring in connection with the operation of its business wherein loss of life
31 occurs or any person is injured, or of such a nature as to endanger the safety, health or property of
32 its consumers or the public, as and whenever directed by such rules and regulations as the
33 **department of energy and the** commission may prescribe.

34 374:40 Publicity. Reports of accidents filed under RSA 374:39 shall not be made public
35 otherwise than in the published reports of the commission **or the department of energy**.

36 274 New Paragraph; Definitions. Amend RSA 374:48 by inserting after paragraph II the
37 following new paragraph:

1 II-a. "Department" means the department of energy.

2 275 Rulemaking. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 374:50 to read as follows:

3 The ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to:

4 276 Civil Penalty. Amend RSA 374:55 to read as follows

5 374:55 Civil Penalty.

6 I. Proof that an excavation has been made without compliance with the notice requirement
7 of RSA 374:51 and that damage to an underground facility has occurred shall be prima facie
8 evidence in any court or administrative proceeding that the damage was caused by the negligence of
9 the excavator.

10 II. Any excavator who does not give notice of or identify the proposed excavation area as
11 required by RSA 374:51 or rules of the ~~[commission]~~ **department** regarding tolerance zones and
12 marking procedures shall be subject to the penalties in paragraph VIII, in addition to any liability
13 for the actual damages.

14 III. Any operator which does not mark the location of its underground facilities as required
15 by RSA 374:53 or rules of the ~~[commission]~~ **department** regarding tolerance zones and marking
16 procedures shall be subject to the penalties in paragraph VIII.

17 IV. If underground facilities are damaged because an operator does not mark its
18 underground facilities as required by RSA 374:53, the operator shall be subject to the penalties in
19 paragraph VIII, liable for damages sustained to its facilities and, in addition, shall be liable for any
20 damages incurred by the excavator as a result of the operator's failure to mark such facilities.

21 V. If marked underground facilities are damaged, the excavator shall be subject to the
22 penalties in paragraph VIII and liable for the cost of repairs for the damage.

23 VI. Any excavator who damages an underground facility and fails to notify the operator, or
24 backfills the excavation without receiving permission, as required by RSA 374:54, shall be subject to
25 the penalties in paragraph VIII.

26 VII. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** or any ~~[commission]~~ **department** employee, involved in
27 an underground facility damage prevention program approved by the ~~[commission]~~ **department** and
28 designated by the ~~[commission]~~ **department**, may enforce violations of this subdivision. Any

29 excavator or operator that violates this subdivision shall be subject to the penalties in paragraph

30 VIII. In addition, the ~~[commission]~~ **department** may assess the excavator for expenditures made to
31 collect the civil penalty. Any excavator or operator which suffers damage resulting from violation of
32 this subdivision may petition the ~~[commission]~~ **department** to initiate an enforcement action.

33 VIII. Any excavator or operator that does not comply with RSA 374:51 through 374:54 shall
34 be required either to complete an underground facility damage prevention program approved by the
35 ~~[commission]~~ **department**, or to pay a civil penalty of up to \$500. The civil penalty may be up to
36 \$5,000 if the excavator or operator previously violated RSA 374:51 through 374:54 within the prior
37 12 months or if the violation results in bodily injury or property damages exceeding \$50,000,

1 excluding utility costs. This paragraph shall not apply to a homeowner excavating on his or her own
2 property or to a legal occupant of residential property excavating on the property of his or her
3 primary residence with the permission of the owner.

4 277 Telephone Number Conservation and Area Code Implementation Policy Principles. Amend
5 RSA 374:59 to read as follows:

6 374:59 Telephone Number Conservation and Area Code Implementation Policy Principles.

7 I. In this section:

8 (a) [~~Commission~~] "**Department**" means the [~~public utilities commission~~] **department**
9 **of energy**.

10 (b) "Geographic split" means the division of an area code into typically 2 areas each
11 served by its own area code.

12 (c) "Overlay" means the addition of a new area code serving the same geographic area as
13 the existing area code.

14 II. The [~~commission~~] **department** should promote and adopt telephone number conservation
15 measures to the maximum extent allowed by federal law for area code 603 and any subsequently
16 assigned New Hampshire area codes.

17 III. The [~~commission~~] **department** should adopt measures, to the maximum extent
18 allowable by federal law and availability of technology, to provide that all customers of all suppliers
19 have equitable access to all currently available unassigned telephone numbers and equitable access
20 to numbers that have not been assigned to a customer which are available for porting to a second
21 supplier. Blocks of telephone numbers that are currently assigned but may be retrievable if
22 thousands number block pooling becomes available should be assigned on an equitable basis to all
23 suppliers.

24 IV. The [~~commission~~] **department** should adopt measures, to the maximum extent
25 allowable by federal law and availability of technology, to provide for local number portability by all
26 suppliers of local exchange service.

27 V. To the extent that any one competitor is responsible for managing a pool of numbers
28 which is to be assigned to customers of that competitor and other competitors, the [~~commission~~]
29 **department** should adopt policies to require that the assignment and management of the numbers
30 be kept segregated from the marketing portion of that competitor.

31 VI. When determining whether to implement a new area code via geographic split or overlay
32 the [~~commission~~] **department** should consider, but not be limited to, the following criteria when
33 determining the public interest:

- 34 (a) Which method best minimizes customer disruption from having to change numbers;
35 (b) Which method is the least costly for business and residents;
36 (c) Which method best minimizes customer confusion;
37 (d) Which method is the least costly for providers to implement;

1 (e) Which method most effectively conserves the total pool of telephone numbers once a
2 new area code is created;

3 (f) Which method minimizes geographic controversy;

4 (g) Which method is most equitable to every resident and business in New Hampshire;

5 (h) Which method minimizes repeating the disruption of area code changes in the future;

6 (i) Which method best ensures public safety;

7 (j) Which method is more competitively neutral; and

8 (k) Which method utilizes best available technology and comprehensive
9 telecommunications planning.

10 278 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project Loan Programs. Amend RSA 374:61 to
11 read as follows:

12 374:61 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project Loan Programs. A public utility may
13 seek ~~[commission]~~ authorization *from the department of energy*, either individually or in
14 combination with other public utilities, to establish loan, financing, or cost amortization programs
15 for owners and tenants of residential, public, nonprofit, and business property to finance or
16 otherwise amortize cost effective fuel neutral renewable energy and energy efficiency investments
17 and improvements to the owner's or tenant's premises. The total amount loaned in such programs
18 shall not exceed \$5,000,000. The ~~[commission]~~ *department* shall authorize terms, conditions, and
19 tariffs for the repayment of such loans and financed or underwritten investments and improvements
20 through charges billed through and that run with the meter or meters assigned to the location where
21 the investments are located, provided that such investments or improvements to a tenant's premises
22 are only made with the written consent of the owner or the owner's authorized management
23 representative. Pursuant to RSA 477:4-h, the owner, seller, lessor, or transferor of any real property
24 subject to unamortized or ongoing charges under such a tariff shall disclose such fact to a prospective
25 buyer, lessee, or occupant who might be responsible for paying such charges as a condition of utility
26 service. A public utility may not finance these loan, financing, or cost amortization programs
27 through its rate-base, nor earn its regulated rate of return on such program investments and
28 improvements to the owner's or tenant's premises, unless such investment is approved as part of a
29 strategy for minimizing transmission and distributions costs pursuant to RSA 374-G.

30 279 Electric Utility Restructuring; Purpose. Amend RSA 374-F:1, III to read as follows:

31 III. The following interdependent policy principles are intended to guide the New
32 Hampshire public utilities commission *and the department of energy* in implementing a statewide
33 electric utility industry restructuring plan, in establishing interim stranded cost recovery charges, in
34 approving each utility's compliance filing, in streamlining administrative processes to make
35 regulation more efficient, and in regulating a restructured electric utility industry. In addition,
36 these interdependent principles are intended to guide the New Hampshire general court and the

1 department of environmental services and other state agencies in promoting and regulating a
2 restructured electric utility industry.

3 280 New Paragraph; Definitions. Amend RSA 374-F:2 by inserting after paragraph I-a the
4 following new paragraph:

5 I-b. "Department" means the department of energy.

6 281 Restructuring Policy Principles; Implementation. Amend RSA 374-F:3 and 374-F:4 to read
7 as follows:

8 374-F:3 Restructuring Policy Principles.

9 I. System Reliability. Reliable electricity service must be maintained while ensuring public
10 health, safety, and quality of life.

11 II. Customer Choice. Allowing customers to choose among electricity suppliers will help
12 ensure fully competitive and innovative markets. Customers should be able to choose among options
13 such as levels of service reliability, real time pricing, and generation sources, including
14 interconnected self generation. Customers should expect to be responsible for the consequences of
15 their choices. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** should ensure that customer confusion will be
16 minimized and customers will be well informed about changes resulting from restructuring and
17 increased customer choice.

18 III. Regulation and Unbundling of Services and Rates. When customer choice is introduced,
19 services and rates should be unbundled, to provide customers clear price information on the cost
20 components of generation, transmission, distribution, and any other ancillary charges. Generation
21 services should be subject to market competition and minimal economic regulation and at least
22 functionally separated from transmission and distribution services which should remain regulated
23 for the foreseeable future. However, distribution service companies should not be absolutely
24 precluded from owning small scale distributed generation resources as part of a strategy for
25 minimizing transmission and distribution costs. Performance based or incentive regulation should
26 be considered for transmission and distribution services. Upward revaluation of transmission and
27 distribution assets is not a preferred mechanism as part of restructuring. Retail electricity suppliers
28 who do not own transmission and distribution facilities, should, at a minimum, be registered with
29 the ~~[commission]~~ **department**.

30 IV. Open Access to Transmission and Distribution Facilities. Non-discriminatory open
31 access to the electric system for wholesale and retail transactions should be promoted.
32 Comparability should be assured for generators competing with affiliates of groups supplying
33 transmission and distribution services. Companies providing transmission services should file at the
34 FERC or with the commission, *or with the department of energy*, as appropriate, comparable
35 service tariffs that provide open access for all competitors. The commission *and the department*
36 should monitor companies providing transmission or distribution services and take necessary
37 measures to ensure that no supplier has an unfair advantage in offering and pricing such services.

1 V. Universal Service.

2 (a) Electric service is essential and should be available to all customers. A utility
3 providing distribution services must have an obligation to connect all customers in its service
4 territory to the distribution system. A restructured electric utility industry should provide adequate
5 safeguards to assure universal service. Minimum residential customer service safeguards and
6 protections should be maintained. Programs and mechanisms that enable residential customers
7 with low incomes to manage and afford essential electricity requirements should be included as a
8 part of industry restructuring.

9 (b) As competitive markets emerge, customers should have the option of stable and
10 predictable ceiling electricity prices through a reasonable transition period, consistent with the near
11 term rate relief principle of RSA 374-F:3, XI. Upon the implementation of retail choice, transition
12 service should be available for at least one but not more than 5 years after competition has been
13 certified to exist in at least 70 percent of the state pursuant to RSA 38:36, for customers who have
14 not yet chosen a competitive electricity supplier. Transition service should be procured through
15 competitive means and may be administered by independent third parties. The price of transition
16 service should increase over time to encourage customers to choose a competitive electricity supplier
17 during the transition period. Such transition service should be separate and distinct from default
18 service.

19 (c) Default service should be designed to provide a safety net and to assure universal
20 access and system integrity. Default service should be procured through the competitive market and
21 may be administered by independent third parties. Any prudently incurred costs arising from
22 compliance with the renewable portfolio standards of RSA 362-F for default service or purchased
23 power agreements shall be recovered through the default service charge. The allocation of the costs
24 of administering default service should be borne by the customers of default service in a manner
25 approved by the commission. If the commission determines it to be in the public interest, the
26 commission may implement measures to discourage misuse, or long-term use, of default service.
27 Revenues, if any, generated from such measures should be used to defray stranded costs.

28 (d) The commission should establish transition and default service appropriate to the
29 particular circumstances of each jurisdictional utility.

30 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of subparagraphs (b) and (c), as competitive markets
31 develop, the commission may approve alternative means of providing transition or default services
32 which are designed to minimize customer risk, not unduly harm the development of competitive
33 markets, and mitigate against price volatility without creating new deferred costs, if the commission
34 determines such means to be in the public interest.

35 (f)(1) For purposes of subparagraph (f), "renewable energy source" (RES) means a source
36 of electricity, as defined in RSA 362-F:2, XV, that would qualify to receive renewable energy

1 certificates under RSA 362-F, whether or not it has been designated as eligible under RSA 362-F:6,
2 III.

3 (2) A utility shall provide to its customers one or more RES options, as approved by
4 the commission, which may include RES default service provided by the utility or the provision of
5 retail access to competitive sellers of RES attributes. Costs associated with selecting an RES option
6 should be paid for by those customers choosing to take such option. A utility may recover all
7 prudently incurred administrative costs of RES options from all customers, as approved by the
8 commission.

9 (3) RES default service should have either all or a portion of its service attributable
10 to a renewable energy source component procured by the utility, with any remainder filled by
11 standard default service. The price of any RES default service shall be approved by the commission.

12 (4) Under any option offered, the customer shall be purchasing electricity generated
13 by renewable energy sources or the attributes of such generation, either in connection with or
14 separately from the electricity produced. The regional-generation information system of energy
15 certificates administered by the ISO-New England and the New England Power Pool (NEPOOL)
16 should be considered at least one form of certification that is acceptable under this program.

17 (5) A utility that is required by statute to provide default service from its generation
18 assets should use any of its owned generation assets that are powered by renewable energy for the
19 provision of standard default service, rather than for the provision of a renewable energy source
20 component.

21 (6) Utilities should include educational materials in their normal communications to
22 their customers that explain the RES options being offered and the health and environmental
23 benefits associated with them. Such educational materials should be compatible with any
24 environmental disclosure requirements established by the ~~[commission]~~ **department**.

25 (7) For purposes of consumer protection and the maintenance of program integrity,
26 reasonable efforts should be made to assure that the renewable energy source component of an RES
27 option is not separately advertised, claimed, or sold as part of any other electricity service or
28 transaction, including compliance with the renewable portfolio standards under RSA 362-F.

29 (8) If RES default service is not available for purchase at a reasonable cost on behalf
30 of consumers choosing an RES default service option, a utility may, as approved by the commission,
31 make payments to the renewable energy fund created pursuant to RSA 362-F:10 on behalf of
32 customers to comply with subparagraph (f).

33 (9) The commission shall implement subparagraph (f) through utility-specific filings.
34 Approved RES options shall be included in individual tariff filings by utilities.

35 (10) A utility, with commission approval, may require that a minimum number of
36 customers, or a minimum amount of load, choose to participate in the program in order to offer an
37 RES option.

1 VI. Benefits for All Consumers. Restructuring of the electric utility industry should be
2 implemented in a manner that benefits all consumers equitably and does not benefit one customer
3 class to the detriment of another. Costs should not be shifted unfairly among customers. A
4 nonbypassable and competitively neutral system benefits charge applied to the use of the
5 distribution system may be used to fund public benefits related to the provision of electricity. Such
6 benefits, as approved by regulators, may include, but not necessarily be limited to, programs for low-
7 income customers, energy efficiency programs, funding for the electric utility industry's share of
8 commission *and department* expenses pursuant to RSA 363-A, support for research and
9 development, and investments in commercialization strategies for new and beneficial technologies.
10 Legislative approval of the New Hampshire general court shall be required to increase the system
11 benefits charge. This requirement of prior approval of the New Hampshire general court shall not
12 apply to the energy efficiency portion of the system benefits charge if the increase is authorized by
13 an order of the commission to implement the 3-year planning periods of the Energy Efficiency
14 Resource Standard framework established by commission Order No. 25,932 dated August 2, 2016,
15 ending in 2020 and 2023, or, if for purposes other than implementing the Energy Efficiency Resource
16 Standard, is authorized by the fiscal committee of the general court; provided, however, that no less
17 than 20 percent of the portion of the funds collected for energy efficiency shall be expended on low-
18 income energy efficiency programs. Energy efficiency programs should include the development of
19 relationships with third-party lending institutions to provide opportunities for low-cost financing of
20 energy efficiency measures to leverage available funds to the maximum extent, and shall also
21 include funding for workforce development to minimize waiting periods for low-income energy audits
22 and weatherization.

23 VII. Full and Fair Competition. Choice for retail customers cannot exist without a range of
24 viable suppliers. The rules that govern market activity should apply to all buyers and sellers in a
25 fair and consistent manner in order to ensure a fully competitive market.

26 VIII. Environmental Improvement. Continued environmental protection and long term
27 environmental sustainability should be encouraged. Increased competition in the electric industry
28 should be implemented in a manner that supports and furthers the goals of environmental
29 improvement. Over time, there should be more equitable treatment of old and new generation
30 sources with regard to air pollution controls and costs. New Hampshire should encourage equitable
31 and appropriate environmental regulation, based on comparable criteria, for all electricity
32 generators, in and out of state, to reduce air pollution transported across state lines and to promote
33 full, free, and fair competition. As generation becomes deregulated, innovative market-driven
34 approaches are preferred to regulatory controls to reduce adverse environmental impacts. Such
35 market approaches may include valuing the costs of pollution and using pollution offset credits.

36 IX. Renewable Energy Resources. Increased future commitments to renewable energy
37 resources should be consistent with the New Hampshire energy policy as set forth in RSA 378:37

1 and should be balanced against the impact on generation prices. Over the long term, increased use
2 of cost-effective renewable energy technologies can have significant environmental, economic, and
3 security benefits. To encourage emerging technologies, restructuring should allow customers the
4 possibility of choosing to pay a premium for electricity from renewable resources and reasonable
5 opportunities to directly invest in and interconnect decentralized renewable electricity generating
6 resources.

7 X. Energy Efficiency. Restructuring should be designed to reduce market barriers to
8 investments in energy efficiency and provide incentives for appropriate demand-side management
9 and not reduce cost-effective customer conservation. Utility sponsored energy efficiency programs
10 should target cost-effective opportunities that may otherwise be lost due to market barriers.

11 XI. Near Term Rate Relief. The goal of restructuring is to create competitive markets that
12 are expected to produce lower prices for all customers than would have been paid under the current
13 regulatory system. Given New Hampshire's higher than average regional prices for electricity,
14 utilities, in the near term, should work to reduce rates for all customers. To the greatest extent
15 practicable, rates should approach competitive regional electric rates. The state should recognize
16 when state policies impose costs that conflict with this principle and should take efforts to mitigate
17 those costs. The unique New Hampshire issues contributing to the highest prices in New England
18 should be addressed during the transition, wherever possible.

19 XII. Recovery of Stranded Costs.

20 (a) It is the intent of the legislature to provide appropriate tools and reasonable
21 guidance to the commission in order to assist it in addressing claims for stranded cost recovery and
22 fulfilling its responsibility to determine rates which are equitable, appropriate, and balanced and in
23 the public interest. In making its determinations, the commission shall balance the interests of
24 ratepayers and utilities during and after the restructuring process. Nothing in this section is
25 intended to provide any greater opportunity for stranded cost recovery than is available under
26 applicable regulation or law on the effective date of this chapter.

27 (b) Utilities should be allowed to recover the net nonmitigatable stranded costs
28 associated with required environmental mandates currently approved for cost recovery, and power
29 acquisitions mandated by federal statutes or RSA 362-A.

30 (c) Utilities have had and continue to have an obligation to take all reasonable measures
31 to mitigate stranded costs. Mitigation measures may include, but shall not be limited to:

32 (1) Reduction of expenses.

33 (2) Renegotiation of existing contracts.

34 (3) Refinancing of existing debt.

35 (4) A reasonable amount of retirement, sale, or write-off of uneconomic or surplus
36 assets, including regulatory assets not directly related to the provision of electricity service.

1 (d) Stranded costs should be determined on a net basis, should be verifiable, should not
2 include transmission and distribution assets, and should be reconciled to actual electricity market
3 conditions from time to time. Any recovery of stranded costs should be through a nonbypassable,
4 nondiscriminatory, appropriately structured charge that is fair to all customer classes, lawful,
5 constitutional, limited in duration, consistent with the promotion of fully competitive markets and
6 consistent with these principles. Entry and exit fees are not preferred recovery mechanisms.
7 Charges to recover stranded costs should only apply to customers within a utility's retail service
8 territory, except for such costs that have resulted from the provision of wholesale power to another
9 utility. The charges should not apply to wheeling-through transactions.

10 XIII. Regionalism. New England Power Pool (NEPOOL) should be reformed and efforts to
11 enhance competition and to complement industry restructuring on a regional basis should be
12 encouraged. New Hampshire should work with other New England and northeastern states to
13 accomplish the goals of restructuring. Working with other regional states, New Hampshire should
14 assert maximum state authority over the entire electric industry restructuring process. While it is
15 desirable to design and implement a restructured industry in concert with the other New England
16 and northeastern states, New Hampshire should not unnecessarily delay its timetable. Any pool
17 structure adopted for the restructured industry should not preclude bilateral contracts with pool and
18 non-pool services and should not preclude ancillary pool services from being obtained from non-pool
19 sources.

20 XIV. Administrative Processes. The commission *and the department* should adapt ~~the~~
21 *their* administrative processes to make regulation more efficient and to enable competitors to adapt
22 to changes in the market in a timely manner. The market framework for competitive electric service
23 should, to the extent possible, reduce reliance on administrative process. New Hampshire should
24 move deliberately to replace traditional planning mechanisms with market driven choice as the
25 means of supplying resource needs.

26 XV. Timetable. The commission should seek to implement full customer choice among
27 electricity suppliers in the most expeditious manner possible, but may delay such implementation in
28 the service territory of any electric utility when implementation would be inconsistent with the goal
29 of near-term rate relief, or would otherwise not be in the public interest.

30 374-F/4 Implementation.

31 I. The commission is authorized to require the implementation of retail choice of electric
32 suppliers for all customer classes of utilities providing retail electric service under its jurisdiction.
33 The commission shall require such implementation at the earliest date determined to be in the
34 public interest by the commission. However, in no event may the implementation be delayed beyond
35 July 1, 1998 without legislative approval or a finding of public interest by the commission that delay
36 is required due to events beyond the control of the commission or that implementation of retail
37 choice within the service territory of any electric utility would be inconsistent with the goal of near-

1 term rate relief or would otherwise not be in the public interest. In the event that implementation of
2 retail choice is delayed in the service territory of an electric utility, the electric utility shall continue
3 to provide reliable retail service at the lowest reasonable cost in accordance with state law. In
4 addition, at the earliest practical date, the commission should make effective the unbundling of
5 components of rates into at least distribution, transmission, and generation for each jurisdictional
6 utility.

7 II. Upon the effective date of this chapter, the commission shall undertake a generic
8 proceeding to develop a statewide industry restructuring plan in accordance with the above
9 principles, and shall, after public hearings, issue a final order no later than February 28, 1997. In
10 its order, the commission shall establish the interim stranded cost recovery charge for each electric
11 utility as provided in paragraph VI.

12 III. The commission shall require all electric utilities subject to its jurisdiction to submit
13 compliance filings *to the department of energy*, which shall include open access tariffs and such
14 other information as the commission may require, no later than June 30, 1997. The ~~commission~~
15 *department* shall investigate and *the commission* shall approve utility compliance filings, subject
16 to modification by the commission if necessary, after public hearing and subject to a finding that the
17 filings are in the public interest and substantially consistent with the principles established in this
18 chapter.

19 IV. A utility having less than a 50 percent share of statewide retail electric distribution
20 sales (measured in kilowatt hours per year) may seek a ruling by the commission that it is in the
21 public interest that implementation of such utility's compliance filing be deferred until compliance
22 filings representing 70 percent of retail electric sales have been or are being implemented.

23 V. The commission is authorized to allow utilities to collect a stranded cost recovery charge,
24 subject to its determination in the context of a rate case or adjudicated settlement proceeding that
25 such charge is equitable, appropriate, and balanced, is in the public interest, and is substantially
26 consistent with these interdependent principles. The burden of proof for any stranded cost recovery
27 claim shall be borne by the utility making such claim.

28 VI.(a) In order to facilitate the rapid transition to full competition, the commission is
29 authorized, in its generic restructuring order as provided in paragraph II, to set, without a formal
30 rate case proceeding, an interim stranded cost recovery charge for each electric utility. Such interim
31 stranded cost recovery charges shall be effective for not more than 2 years from the implementation
32 of utility compliance filings and shall be based on the commission's preliminary determination of an
33 equitable, appropriate, and balanced measure of stranded cost recovery that takes into account the
34 near term rate relief principle, is in the public interest, and is substantially consistent with these
35 interdependent principles. The commission shall also consider the potential for future rate impacts
36 due to possible differences between interim stranded cost recovery charges and charges that may
37 finally be approved for stranded cost recovery.

1 (b) Any utility may seek adjustment of the interim stranded cost recovery charge at any
2 time based on severe financial hardship, as determined by the commission. The setting of an interim
3 stranded cost recovery charge shall establish no legal, factual, or policy precedent with respect to the
4 final determination of stranded cost recovery by the commission in any subsequent administrative or
5 judicial proceeding.

6 VII. The interim stranded cost recovery charge established for a utility as provided in
7 paragraph VI may also be adjusted based upon the outcome of rate case proceedings to adjudicate
8 claims for stranded cost recovery pursuant to paragraph V of this section. Any amounts approved by
9 the commission for stranded cost recovery shall be net of amounts previously collected through
10 interim stranded cost recovery charges.

11 VIII.(a) The commission is authorized to order such charges and other service provisions and
12 to take such other actions that are necessary to implement restructuring and that are substantially
13 consistent with the principles established in this chapter. The commission is authorized to require
14 that distribution and electricity supply services be provided by separate affiliates.

15 (b) [Repealed.]

16 (c) The portion of the system benefits charge due to programs for low-income customers
17 shall not exceed 1.5 mills per kilowatt hour. If the commission determines that the low-income
18 program fund has accumulated an excess of \$1,000,000 and that the excess is not likely to be
19 substantially reduced over the next 12 months, it shall suspend collection of some or all of this
20 portion of the system benefits charge for a period of time it deems reasonable.

21 (d) [Repealed.]

22 (e) Targeted conservation, energy efficiency, and load management programs and
23 incentives that are part of a strategy to minimize distribution costs may be included in the
24 distribution charge or the system benefits charge, provided that system benefits charge funds are
25 only used for customer-based energy efficiency measures, and such funding shall not exceed 10
26 percent of the energy efficiency portion of a utility's annual system benefits charge funds. A proposal
27 for such use of system benefits charge funds shall be presented to the commission for approval. Any
28 such approval shall initially be on a pilot program basis and the results of each pilot program
29 proposal shall be subject to evaluation by the commission.

30 (f) Beginning in 2000, the commission *and the department* shall submit a report to the
31 legislative oversight committee to monitor the transformation of delivery of electric services by
32 October 1 of each year. The report shall concern the results and effectiveness of the system benefits
33 charge.

34 (g) [Repealed.]

35 VIII-a. Any electric utility that collects funds for energy efficiency programs that are subject
36 to the commission's approval, shall include in its plans to be submitted to the commission program
37 design, and/or enhancements, and estimated participation that maximize energy efficiency benefits

1 to public schools, including measures that help enhance the energy efficiency of public school
2 construction or renovation projects that are designed to improve indoor air quality. The report
3 required under RSA 374-F:4, VIII(f) shall include the results and effectiveness of the energy
4 efficiency programs for schools and, in addition to other requirements, be submitted to the
5 commissioner of the department of education.

6 IX. An electricity supplier shall be eligible to compete, subject to necessary limitations
7 established by the commission, for open access customers only if affiliated utilities file comparable
8 open access transmission and distribution rates with the FERC or the commission, or both as
9 appropriate, for all of their transmission facilities in New Hampshire and, to the extent practicable,
10 all of their distribution facilities in New Hampshire.

11 X. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the commission from otherwise
12 exercising its lawful authority under title 34, in proceedings which relate to the introduction of
13 competition in the retail electric utility industry including the retention of experts and consultants to
14 assist the commission in its investigations and the assessment of such costs against utilities and any
15 other parties to the proceedings, consistent with RSA 365:37 and RSA 365:38.

16 XI. Any administrative or adjudicative proceeding or public hearing relating to this chapter
17 shall be subject to the provisions of RSA 541-A.

18 XII. To the extent that the provisions of this chapter are applicable to rural electric
19 cooperatives for which a certificate of deregulation is on file with the commission, the commission
20 shall exercise its authority with regard to such deregulated rural electric cooperatives only when and
21 to the extent that the commission finds, after notice and hearing, that such action is required to
22 ensure that such deregulated rural electric cooperatives do not act in a manner which is inconsistent
23 with the restructuring policy principles of RSA 374-F:3. The commission shall have the authority to
24 require that such deregulated rural electric cooperatives participate in proceedings, answer
25 commission ~~and department~~ for information and file such reports as may be reasonably necessary
26 to permit the commission to make an informed finding concerning the relevant restructuring policy
27 principle actions of such deregulated rural electric cooperatives. Absent such a finding by the
28 commission, the active role of assuring that the restructuring policy principles are appropriately
29 addressed within their service territories shall be reserved to the deregulated rural electric
30 cooperatives. Notwithstanding the foregoing, deregulated rural electric cooperatives shall be subject
31 to the commission's jurisdiction with regard to those provisions of RSA 374-F pertaining to stranded
32 cost recovery, customer choice, open access tariffs, default service, energy efficiency, and low income
33 programs to the same extent as other public utilities.

34 282 Electric Utility Restructuring; Ratepayer Protection. Amend RSA 374-F:4-b to read as
35 follows:

36 374-F:4-b Ratepayer Protection.

1 I. Within 60 days of the effective date of this section, the commission shall initiate a
2 proceeding to develop rules to allow residential and small commercial customers to choose how they
3 receive communication from competitive electric suppliers and to implement the provisions of this
4 section. Where the commission has adopted rules in conformity with this section, complaints to and
5 proceedings before the commission shall not be subject to RSA 541-A:29 or RSA 541-A:29-a.

6 II. ~~[Within 120 days of the effective date of this section, the commission shall redesign its~~
7 ~~website to]~~ **The department of energy shall** enable residential and small commercial customers to
8 compare standard pricing policies and charges and to require competitive electric suppliers to input
9 such information **on the department's website**. Such information shall be input no less frequently
10 than once per month, unless there is no change in such information. ~~[Such redesign shall:~~

11 ~~(a) Reflect the best practices of similar commission websites in other states and develop~~
12 ~~a process for removal of a competitive electric supplier's listings from such Internet website based on~~
13 ~~protocols established by the commission to ensure compliance with this section and to address~~
14 ~~customer complaints.~~

15 ~~(b) Emphasize:~~

16 ~~(1) Uniformity in the way competitive electric suppliers provide information for each~~
17 ~~category on the commission's website.~~

18 ~~(2) Ease of use by customers.~~

19 ~~(3) Ease of selecting and purchasing a specific contract from a competitive electric~~
20 ~~supplier shown on the commission's website.~~

21 ~~(c) Include separate input boxes for the following information:~~

22 ~~(1) A link to the provider's web page.~~

23 ~~(2) Contract durations.~~

24 ~~(3) Whether the contract has variable or fixed rates, or both, and when such rates~~
25 ~~apply.~~

26 ~~(4) Cancellation charges.~~

27 ~~(5) Rates.~~

28 ~~(6) Other relevant information.]~~

29 III. ~~[On or before July 1, 2017, and every 2 years thereafter, the commission]~~ **The**
30 **department of energy** shall review its website **every 2 years** and ensure that the site remains an
31 efficient tool for the comparison of pricing policies and charges among competitive electric suppliers.

32 IV. Unless the contract specifies a month-to-month variable rate, no competitive electric
33 supplier shall charge a residential customer a variable rate, including during a contract term or
34 following the expiration of a contract, without first providing written notification in a form approved
35 by the commission of the nature of such variable rate 45 days prior to the commencement of the
36 variable rate. The residential customer shall select the method of written notification at the time

1 the contract is signed. Such customer shall have the option to change the method of notification at
2 any time during the contract.

3 V. Competitive electric suppliers shall retain records of any of the notices required in this
4 section for a period of not less than 2 years and shall make such records available to the commission
5 upon its request.

6 283 Oversight Committee; Report. Amend RSA 374-F:5, III to read as follows:

7 III. The committee shall provide an interim report on or before April 1, and an annual report
8 on or before November 1 to the governor, the speaker of the house, the senate president, the state
9 library, ~~and~~ the public utilities commission, **and the department of energy** on activities before
10 the public utilities commission and other cognizant state agencies in regard to evolving changes in
11 the provision of electric services to New Hampshire customers, including modernization of the
12 electric grid, development of technologies for electric storage, electrification of transportation, the
13 growth of distributed generation, the commission's role in a deregulated market, and such matters
14 as may arise that may present opportunities to improve the delivery of electric services or to reduce
15 cost.

16 284 Competitive Electricity Supplier Requirements; Participation in Regional Activities. Amend
17 RSA 374-F:7 and 374-F:8 to read as follows:

18 374-F:7 Competitive Electricity Supplier Requirements.

19 I. Competitive energy suppliers are not public utilities pursuant to RSA 362:2, though a
20 competitive energy supplier may seek public utility status from the ~~commission~~ **department** if it
21 so chooses. Notwithstanding a competitive energy supplier's non-utility status, the ~~commission~~
22 **department** is authorized to establish requirements, excluding price regulation, for competitive
23 electricity suppliers, including registration, registration fees, customer information, disclosure,
24 standards of conduct, and consumer protection and assistance requirements. Unless electing to do
25 so, an electricity supplier that offers or sells at retail to consumers within this state products and
26 services that can lawfully be made available to such consumers by more than one supplier shall not,
27 because of such offers or sales, be deemed to be a public utility as defined by RSA 362:2. These
28 requirements shall be applied in a manner consistent with the restructuring principles of this
29 chapter to promote competition among electricity suppliers.

30 II. Aggregators of electricity load that do not take ownership of power or other services and
31 do not represent any supplier interest are not public utilities pursuant to RSA 362:2, but shall notify
32 the ~~commission~~ **department** of their intent to do business. Municipalities that aggregate electric
33 power or energy services for their citizens pursuant to RSA 53-E are not public utilities pursuant to
34 RSA 362:2 and are not subject to the provisions of paragraph III and RSA 374-F:4-b.

35 III. The **department may investigate and petition the** commission ~~may~~ **to** assess fines
36 against, revoke the registration of, order the rescission of contracts with residential customers of,

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1 order restitution to the residential customers of, and prohibit from doing business in the state any
2 competitive electricity supplier, including any aggregator or broker, which is found to have:

3 (a) Engaged in any unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the marketing, sale, or
4 solicitation of electricity supply or related services;

5 (b) Violated the requirements of this section or any other provision of this title
6 applicable to competitive electricity suppliers; or

7 (c) Violated any rule adopted by the ~~[commission]~~ **department** pursuant to paragraph V
8 and RSA 374-F:4-b.

9 IV. As a condition of operation, for a 2-year interim period from the date that competition is
10 implemented in one or more areas of the state, competitive energy suppliers and load aggregators
11 shall submit to the jurisdiction of the commission for mediation and resolution of disputes between
12 customers and competitive energy suppliers or aggregators. Municipalities that aggregate electric
13 power or energy service for their citizens pursuant to RSA 53-E are not subject to this paragraph.

14 V. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall adopt rules, under RSA 541-A, to implement this
15 section. Where the ~~[commission]~~ **department** has adopted rules in conformity with this section,
16 complaints to and proceedings before the commission shall not be subject to RSA 541-A:29 or RSA
17 541-A:29-a.

18 374-F:8 Participation in Regional Activities: The ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall advocate for
19 New Hampshire interests before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other regional and
20 federal bodies. The commission shall participate in the activities of the New England Conference of
21 Public Utility Commissioners, *and* the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners,
22 *and the department shall participate in the activities of the* New England States Committee on
23 Electricity, or other similar organizations, and work with the New England Independent System
24 Operator and NEPOOL to advance the interests of New Hampshire with respect to wholesale
25 electric issues, including policy goals relating to fuel diversity, renewable energy, and energy
26 efficiency, and to assure nondiscriminatory open access to a safe, adequate, and reliable
27 transmission system at just and reasonable prices. The ~~[commission]~~ **department** shall advocate
28 against proposed regional or federal rules or policies that are inconsistent with the policies, rules, or
29 laws of New Hampshire. In its participation in regional activities, the commission *and the*
30 *department* shall consider how other states' policies will impact New Hampshire rates and work to
31 prevent or minimize any rate impact the commission *or department* determines to be unjust or
32 unreasonable.

33 285 Offshore Wind and Port Development; Commission Established; Membership. Amend RSA
34 374-F:10, II(c) to read as follows:

35 (c) The ~~[director of the office of strategic initiatives]~~ **commissioner of the department**
36 **of energy**, or designee.

1 286 Reference Changed; Office of Offshore Wind Industry Development. Amend RSA 374-F:10,
2 VI to read as follows:

3 VI. The commission shall receive staff support and other services, including research and
4 facilities assessments, from the department of [~~business and economic affairs~~] *energy*, office of
5 offshore wind industry development established in RSA [~~42-O:51~~] *12-P:7-b*.

6 287 Definitions Amend RSA 374-H:1, I to read as follows:

7 I. [~~Commission~~] "*Department*" means the [~~public utilities commission~~] *department of*
8 *energy*.

9 288 Investigation of Energy Storage. Amend RSA 374-H:2 to read as follows:

10 374-H:2 [~~Commission~~] *Department* Investigation of Energy Storage.

11 I. Within 30 days of the effective date of this chapter, the [~~commission~~] *department* shall
12 [~~initiate a proceeding to investigate~~] *conduct an investigation into* ways to enable energy storage
13 projects to receive compensation for avoided transmission and distribution costs, including but not
14 limited to avoided regional and local network service charges, while also participating in wholesale
15 energy markets. The [~~commission~~] *department* shall investigate how this might be done for both
16 utility-owned and non-utility-owned energy storage projects, as well as for both behind-the-meter
17 storage and front-of-the-meter storage.

18 II. The [~~commission's investigative proceeding~~] *department's investigation* shall
19 specifically consider the following:

20 (a) How public policy can best help establish accurate and efficient price signals for
21 energy storage projects that value their ability to avoid transmission and distribution costs while
22 simultaneously reducing wholesale electricity market prices.

23 (b) How to compensate energy storage projects that participate in wholesale electricity
24 markets for avoided transmission and distribution costs in a manner that provides net savings to
25 consumers.

26 (c) How best to encourage both utility and non-utility investments in energy storage
27 projects.

28 (d) The costs and benefits of a potential bring your own device program; how such a
29 program might be implemented; any statutory or regulatory changes that might be needed to create,
30 facilitate, and implement such a program; and whether such a program should include all
31 distributed energy resources or be limited to distributed energy storage projects.

32 (e) Any statutory changes the general court should implement, including but not limited
33 to changes to or exceptions from RSA 374-F or RSA 374-G, to enable energy storage projects to
34 receive appropriate compensation for avoided transmission and distribution costs while also
35 participating in wholesale energy markets.

36 (f) Any other topic the [~~commission~~] *department* reasonably believes it should consider
37 in order to diligently conduct the proceeding.

1 III. The ~~commission~~ **department** shall report its findings and recommendations to the
2 standing committees of the house of representatives and senate with jurisdiction over energy and
3 utility matters no later than 2 years after initiating the proceeding. The report shall identify ways
4 any recommended statutory changes can minimize any potential conflict with the restructuring
5 policy principles of RSA 374-F.

6 289 Fixing of Rates by Commission; Energy Policy Act Standards. Amend RSA 378:7 and 378:7-
7 a to read as follows:

8 378:7 Fixing of Rates by Commission. Whenever the commission shall be of opinion, after a
9 hearing had upon its own motion *or on motion of the department of energy* or upon complaint,
10 that the rates, fares or charges demanded or collected, or proposed to be demanded or collected, by
11 any public utility for service rendered or to be rendered are unjust or unreasonable, or that the
12 regulations or practices of such public utility affecting such rates are unjust or unreasonable, or in
13 any wise in violation of any provision of law, or that the maximum rates, fares or charges chargeable
14 by any such public utility are insufficient, the commission shall determine the just and reasonable or
15 lawful rates, fares and charges to be thereafter observed and in force as the maximum to be charged
16 for the service to be performed, and shall fix the same by order to be served upon all public utilities
17 by which such rates, fares and charges are thereafter to be observed. The commission shall be under
18 no obligation to investigate *or hear* any rate matter which it has investigated within a period of 2
19 years, but may do so within said period at its discretion.

20 378:7-a Energy Policy Act Standards. ~~The commission~~ **Consistent with their statutory**
21 **authority, the commission and the department of energy** may establish requirements for net
22 metering, fuel diversity, fossil fuel generation efficiency, advanced metering, time-based rates, and
23 interconnection with on-site generation facilities of customers in a manner not inconsistent with
24 section 111 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. Chapter 46) as amended
25 by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

26 290 Contracts for Advertising. Amend RSA 378:24 to read as follows:

27 378:24 Contracts for Advertising. All advertising contracts of public utilities shall be made at
28 regular, established, commercial advertising rates; and such contracts shall be open to inspection by
29 the commission *and the department of energy* at all times.

30 291 Filing; Inspection; Temporary Rates. Amend RSA 378:26 and 378:27 to read as follows:

31 378:26 Filing; Inspection. A copy of such list for the preceding year shall be filed with the
32 commission *and the department of energy*, in such form and under such regulations as ~~the~~
33 ~~commission~~ **they** may prescribe. Such list, together with the books, records and papers of the
34 carrier so far as relevant, shall be open at all times to the inspection of the commission, who shall
35 examine the same whenever they deem it necessary to the due enforcement of this title.

36 378:27 Temporary Rates. In any proceeding involving the rates of a public utility brought either
37 upon motion of the commission *or the department of energy* or upon complaint, the commission

1 may, after reasonable notice and hearing, if it be of the opinion that the public interest so requires,
2 immediately fix, determine, and prescribe for the duration of said proceeding reasonable temporary
3 rates; provided, however, that such temporary rates shall be sufficient to yield not less than a
4 reasonable return on the cost of the property of the utility used and useful in the public service less
5 accrued depreciation, as shown by the reports of the utility filed with the commission *and the*
6 *department of energy*, unless there appears to be reasonable ground for questioning the figures in
7 such reports.

8 292 Multi-use Data Energy Platform. Amend RSA 378:50-378:52 to read as follows:

9 378:50 Definitions. In this subdivision:

- 10 I. "Data sharing" means providing data and accessing data provided by others.
11 II. "Individual customer data" means the customer's name, address, opt-in status pursuant
12 to RSA 374:62, energy usage as recorded by meters supplied by electric and natural gas utilities, and
13 other data segments established and authorized by the ~~[commission]~~ *department of energy*.
14 III. "Third party" means:
15 (a) Any service provider within the meaning of RSA 363:37, II other than a utility; and
16 (b) The office of the consumer advocate established pursuant to RSA 363:28.

17 378:51 Online Energy Data Platform Established.

18 I. The ~~[commission]~~ *department of energy* shall require electric and natural gas utilities to
19 establish and jointly operate a statewide, multi-use, online energy data platform. The data platform
20 shall:

- 21 (a) Consist of a common base of energy data for use in wide range of applications and
22 business uses.
23 (b) Adhere to specific and well-documented standards.
24 (c) Provide a user-friendly interface.
25 (d) Adhere to a common statewide logical data model that defines the relationships
26 among the various categories of data included in the platform.
27 (e) Allow for sharing of individual customer data consistent with the opt-in requirements
28 for third-party access specified in RSA 363:38.
29 (f) Protect from unauthorized disclosure the personally identifying information of utility
30 customers in a manner that advances applicable constitutional and statutory privacy rights,
31 including the protections of RSA 363:38.
32 (g) Provide for the voluntary participation of municipal utilities and deregulated rural
33 electric cooperatives in data sharing and the operation of the online energy data platform, subject to
34 terms, conditions, and cost sharing which are reasonable and in the public interest.

35 II. The commission shall open an adjudicative proceeding within 90 days of the effective
36 date of this subdivision, to which all electric and natural gas utilities shall be mandatory parties, to
37 determine:

1 (a) Governance, development, implementation, change management, and versioning of
2 the statewide, multi-use, online energy data platform.

3 (b) Standards for data accuracy, retention, availability, privacy, and security, including
4 the integrity and uniformity of the logical data model.

5 (c) Financial security standards or other mechanisms to assure compliance with privacy
6 standards by third parties.

7 III. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** shall defer the implementation of the
8 statewide, multi-use, online energy data platform pursuant to paragraph I if ~~[it]~~ **the commission**
9 determines that the cost of such platform to be recovered from customers is unreasonable and not in
10 the public interest.

11 IV. The ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** may adopt **additional** rules pursuant to RSA
12 541-A as necessary to implement this section.

13 378:52 Platform Requirements. The utilities shall:

14 I. Design and operate the energy data platform to provide opportunities for utilities, their
15 customers, and third parties to access the online energy data platform and to participate in data
16 sharing.

17 II. Require, as a condition of accessing the online energy data platform, that a third party
18 complete a qualification and registration process to ensure that any customer data downloaded from
19 the platform remains in a safe, secure environment according to data privacy standards established
20 by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy**.

21 III. Administer the online energy data platform in a manner consistent with RSA 363:38.

22 293 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; Energy Efficiency Fund and Use of Auction Proceeds.
23 Amend RSA 125-O:23 to read as follows:

24 125-O:23 Energy Efficiency Fund and Use of Auction Proceeds.

25 I. There is hereby established an energy efficiency fund. This nonlapsing, special fund shall
26 be continually appropriated to the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** to be expended in
27 accordance with this section. The state treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited therein, as
28 provided by law. Income received on investments made by the state treasurer shall also be credited
29 to the fund. All programs supported by these funds shall be subject to audit by the ~~[commission]~~
30 **department of energy** as deemed necessary. A portion of the fund moneys shall be used to pay for
31 ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** and **department of environmental services** costs to
32 administer this subdivision, including contributions for the state's share of the costs of the RGGI
33 regional organization. No fund moneys shall be used by the ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** or
34 the **department of environmental services** to contract with outside consultants. The **department**
35 **of energy** ~~[commission]~~ shall transfer from the fund to the **department of environmental services**
36 such costs as may be budgeted and expended, or otherwise approved by the fiscal committee of the

1 general court and the governor and council, for the department's cost of administering this
2 subdivision.

3 II. All amounts in excess of the threshold price of \$1 for any allowance sale shall be rebated
4 to all retail electric ratepayers in the state on a per-kilowatt-hour basis, in a timely manner to be
5 determined by the commission.

6 III. All remaining proceeds received by the state from the sale of allowances, excluding the
7 amount used for ~~[commission]~~ **department of energy** and **department of environmental services**
8 administration under paragraph I, shall be allocated by the commission as follows:

9 (a) At least 15 percent to the low-income core energy efficiency program.
10 (b) Beginning January 1, 2014, up to \$2,000,000 annually to utility core programs for
11 municipal and local government energy efficiency projects, including projects by local governments
12 that have their own municipal utilities. Funding elements shall include, but not be limited to,
13 funding for direct technical and project management assistance to identify and encourage
14 comprehensive projects and incentives structured to assist municipal and local governments funding
15 energy efficiency projects. In calendar years 2014, 2015, and 2016, any unused funds allocated to
16 municipal and local government projects under this paragraph remaining at the end of the year shall
17 roll over and be added to the new calendar year program funds and continue to be made available
18 exclusively for municipal and local government projects. Beginning in calendar year 2017, and all
19 subsequent years, funds allocated to municipal and local government projects under this paragraph
20 shall be offered first to municipal and local governments as described in this paragraph for no less
21 than 4 full calendar months. If, at the end of this time, municipal and local governments have not
22 submitted requests for eligible projects that will expend the funds allocated to municipal and local
23 government projects under this paragraph within that program year, the funds shall be offered on a
24 first-come, first-serve basis to business and municipal customers who fund the system benefits
25 charge.

26 (c) The remainder to all-fuels, comprehensive energy efficiency programs administered
27 by qualified parties which may include electric distribution companies as selected through a
28 competitive bid process. The funding shall be distributed among residential, commercial, and
29 industrial customers based upon each customer class's electricity usage to the greatest extent
30 practicable as determined by the commission. Bids shall be evaluated based on, but not limited to,
31 the following criteria:

- 32 (1) A benefit/cost ratio analysis including all fuels.
33 (2) Demonstrated ability to provide a comprehensive, fuel neutral program.
34 (3) Demonstrated infrastructure to effectively deliver such program.
35 (4) Experience of the bidder in administering energy efficiency programs.
36 (5) Ability to reach out to customers.
37 (6) The validity of the energy saving assumptions described in the bid.

1 IV. The ~~[electric]~~ division of *policy and programs* of the ~~[commission]~~ *department of*
2 *energy* shall conduct a competitive bid process for the selection of programs to be funded under
3 subparagraph III(c), with such funding to begin January 1, 2015. The ~~[commission]~~ *department of*
4 *energy* may petition the governor and council to extend existing contracts until such time as the
5 competitive bids are approved by the governor and council, but in no event later than July 1, 2015.
6 The competitive bid process shall be repeated every 3 years thereafter. Before extending any
7 existing program, public comment on the proposed extension shall be accepted.

8 V. Each entity receiving funding under subparagraph III(c) shall file an annual report on
9 the performance of the entity's program. The ~~[commission]~~ *department of energy* shall establish
10 the format, content, and the methodologies used to provide the content of the reports. The
11 ~~[commission]~~ *department of energy* shall make use of, as applicable and appropriate, the
12 monitoring and verification requirements used in the natural gas and electric utility core programs.
13 The annual reports shall be delivered to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of the
14 house of representatives, the chairmen of the senate and house standing committees with
15 jurisdiction over energy matters, *the commissioner of the department of energy* and the
16 ~~[chairman]~~ *chairperson* of the public utilities commission. The reports shall include, but not be
17 limited to, the following:

- 18 (a) Program expenditures, including direct customer installation costs.
19 (b) Resulting actual and projected energy savings by fuel type and associated CO2
20 emissions reductions.
21 (c) Any measurement and verification data that corroborate projected savings.
22 (d) The number of customers served by the programs.
23 (e) Other data as required by the commission in order to determine program
24 effectiveness.

25 294 New Paragraph; Bank Commissioner; Public Deposit Investment Pool. Amend RSA 383:22
26 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

27 The commissioner shall charge the public deposit investment pool any actual costs
28 incurred by the department for the operation of the pool as well as any expenses of department
29 personnel assisting in the operation of the pool. The cost for personnel assisting in the operation of
30 the pool shall be determined in accordance with the per diem examination charge established in RSA
31 383:11, 1, provided that the requirement that no entity shall be charged or pay less than one full day
32 shall not apply. The private investment advisor retained under paragraph II shall be responsible for
33 processing any invoice submitted for the actual costs incurred by the department and the expenses of
34 department personnel under this paragraph.

35 295 Tax Expenditure Report; Weighted Apportionment Factors Removed. Amend RSA 71-C:2 to
36 read as follows:

1 71-C:2 Tax Expenditures Specified. Tax expenditures include, but may not be limited to, the
2 community development finance authority investment tax credit as computed in RSA 162-L:10; the
3 economic revitalization zone tax credit as computed in RSA 162-N:6; the research and development
4 tax credit under RSA 77-A:5, XIII; the Coos county job creation tax credit under RSA 77-E:3-c; the
5 education tax credit as computed in RSA 77-G:4; ~~the weighted apportionment factors under RSA 77-~~
6 ~~A:3, II(a);~~ **the regional career and technical education center tax credit pursuant to RSA**
7 **188-E:9-a;** and the exemption for qualified regenerative manufacturing companies allowed under
8 RSA 77-A:1, I and RSA 77-E:1, III.

9 296 New Paragraph; Unemployment Compensation; Fraud Detection. Amend RSA 282-A:118
10 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

11 VIII. That for the purpose of preventing and detecting fraud in the unemployment
12 compensation system as well as efficiently coordinating and streamlining integrity improvement
13 efforts, the commissioner of the department of employment security may enter into an agreement
14 with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies' Center for Employment Security
15 Education and Research, Inc. (CESER) as agent for the United States Department of Labor
16 (USDOL) for participation in the Integrity Data Hub (IDH). The department's participation in IDH
17 and any resulting use of confidential data by USDOL and CESER shall be in accordance with all
18 state laws, federal laws as well as state and federal regulations pertaining to prevention and
19 detection of fraud, waste, and abuse in the unemployment compensation system. The information
20 thus provided by the department to the IDH shall be used solely for administration of state and
21 federal unemployment compensation laws. Information under this paragraph shall only be provided
22 upon a finding by the commissioner that sufficient guarantees of continued confidentiality are in
23 place.

24 297 New Subdivision; State Commission on Human Rights; Right to Freedom From
25 Discrimination in Public Workplaces and Education. Amend RSA 354-A by inserting after section 28
26 the following new subdivision:

27 Right to Freedom from Discrimination in Public Workplaces and Education

28 354-A:29 Right to Freedom from Discrimination in Public Workplaces and Education.

29 I. The general court hereby finds and declares that practices of discrimination against any
30 New Hampshire inhabitants because of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed,
31 color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin are a
32 matter of state concern, that discrimination based on these characteristics not only threatens the
33 rights and proper privileges of New Hampshire inhabitants but menaces the institutions and
34 foundation of a free democratic state and threatens the peace, order, health, safety and general
35 welfare of the state and its inhabitants.

1 II. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit racial, sexual, religious, or
2 other workplace sensitivity training based on the inherent humanity and equality of all persons and
3 the ideal that all persons are entitled to be treated with equality, dignity, and respect.

4 III. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the academic freedom of faculty
5 members of the university system of New Hampshire and the community college system of New
6 Hampshire to conduct research, publish, lecture, or teach in the academic setting.

7 354-A:30 Definitions. In this subdivision:

8 I. "Government program" means any activity undertaken by a public employer, both as an
9 employer and in performance of its government function.

10 II. "Public employee" means any person working on a full-time or part-time basis for the
11 state, or any subdivision thereof, including, but not limited to counties, cities, towns, precincts,
12 water districts, school districts, school administrative units, or quasi-public entities.

13 III. "Public employer" includes the state or any subdivision thereof, including, but not
14 limited to counties, cities, towns, precincts, water districts, school districts, school administrative
15 units, or quasi-public entities.

16 354-A:31 Prohibition on Public Employers. No public employer, either directly or through the
17 use of an outside contractor, shall teach, advocate, instruct, or train any employee, student, service
18 recipient, contractor, staff member, inmate, or any other individual or group, any one or more of the
19 following:

20 I. That people of one age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital
21 status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin, are inherently
22 superior or inferior to people of another age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed,
23 color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin;

24 II. That an individual, by virtue of his or her age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation,
25 race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national
26 origin is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;

27 III. That an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely
28 or partly because of his or her age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital
29 status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin; or

30 IV. That people of one age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color,
31 marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin cannot and
32 should not attempt to treat others equally and/or without regard to age, sex, gender identity, sexual
33 orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion,
34 or national origin.

35 354-A:32 Prohibition on the Content of Government Programs and Speech. No government
36 program shall teach, advocate, or advance any one or more of the following:

1 I. That people of one age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital
2 status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin are inherently
3 superior or inferior to people of another age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed,
4 color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin;

5 II. That an individual, by virtue of his or her age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation,
6 race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national
7 origin, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;

8 III. That an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely
9 or partly because of his or her age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital
10 status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin; or

11 IV. That people of one age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color,
12 marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin cannot and
13 should not attempt to treat others equally and/or without regard to age, sex, gender identity, sexual
14 orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion,
15 or national origin.

16 354-A:33 Protection for Public Employees. No public employee shall be subject to any adverse
17 employment action, warning, or discipline of any kind for refusing to participate in any training,
18 program, or other activity at which a public employer or government program advocates, trains,
19 teaches, instructs, or compels participants to express belief in, or support for, any one or more of the
20 following:

21 I. That people of one age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital
22 status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin are inherently
23 superior or inferior to people of another age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed,
24 color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin;

25 II. That an individual, by virtue of his or her age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation,
26 race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national
27 origin, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;

28 III. That an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely
29 or partly because of his or her age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital
30 status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin; or

31 IV. That people of one age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color,
32 marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin cannot and
33 should not attempt to treat others equally and/or without regard to age, sex, gender identity, sexual
34 orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion,
35 or national origin.

1 354-A:34 Remedies. Any person aggrieved by an act made unlawful under this subdivision may
2 pursue all of the remedies available under RSA 354-A, RSA 491, RSA 275-E, or RSA 98-E, or any
3 other applicable common law or statutory cause of action.

4 298 New Section; Prohibition on Teaching Discrimination. Amend RSA 193 by inserting after
5 section 39 the following new section:

6 193:40 Prohibition on Teaching Discrimination.

7 I. No pupil in any public school in this state shall be taught, instructed, inculcated or
8 compelled to express belief in, or support for, any one or more of the following:

9 (a) That one's age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital
10 status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion or national origin is inherently superior
11 to people of another age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital status,
12 familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin;

13 (b) That an individual, by virtue of his or her age, sex, gender identity, sexual
14 orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion,
15 or national origin, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;

16 (c) That an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment
17 solely or partly because of his or her age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color,
18 marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin; or

19 (d) That people of one age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color,
20 marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin cannot and
21 should not attempt to treat others without regard to age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation,
22 race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national
23 origin.

24 II. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit discussing, as part of a larger
25 course of academic instruction, the historical existence of ideas and subjects identified in this
26 section.

27 III. Any person claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of this section, including the attorney
28 general, may initiate a civil action against a school or school district in superior court for legal or
29 equitable relief, or with the New Hampshire commission for human rights as provided in RSA 354-
30 A:34.

31 IV. Violation of this section by an educator shall be considered a violation of the educator
32 code of conduct that justifies disciplinary sanction by the state board of education.

33 V. For the purposes of this section, "educator" means a professional employee of any school
34 district whose position requires certification by the state board pursuant to RSA 189:39.
35 Administrators, specialists, and teachers are included within the definition of this term.

1 299 Severability. If any provision of sections 297-298, or the application of any provision to any
2 person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of such sections, and their application to
3 any other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

4 300 Effective Date. Sections 297-299 of this act shall take effect upon passage.

5 301 Application of Emergency Orders.

6 I. The state hereby recognizes that the issuance of multiple executive orders may have
7 created undue hardship or confusion and contributed to the stressful environment for business
8 operations, particularly small business entities. The penalties associated with violations of these
9 orders, while issued in the interest of public health, should not unduly penalize law-abiding
10 businesses.

11 II. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, state, county, and local
12 jurisdictions shall not enforce, and shall reverse, any violation of the governor's emergency orders
13 regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

14 III. Any business fines issued under executive or emergency orders issued in response to
15 COVID-19 or in accordance with RSA 4:47 shall be refunded. The governor is hereby authorized to
16 draw a warrant for up to \$10,000 for this purpose out of any money in the treasury not otherwise
17 appropriated.

18 IV. The attorney general shall request that the court dismiss any pending enforcement
19 action related to violation of an emergency order issued by the governor in response to the COVID-19
20 pandemic.

21 V. Any record of violation or written warning for such violations shall be expunged if
22 requested in writing, and such records shall not be admissible in any subsequent or future court
23 proceeding. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 651:5, IX, there shall be no charge to the
24 petitioner for expungement of these records.

25 302 New Sections: Animal Records Database. Amend RSA 437 by inserting after section 8 the
26 following new sections:

27 437:8-a Animal Records Database Established.

28 I. The department of agriculture, markets, and food shall design, establish, and contract
29 with a third party for the implementation and operation of an electronic system to facilitate the
30 handling of animal records.

31 II. The department shall maintain a reporting system capable of receiving electronically
32 transmitted records from veterinarians. The commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A to
33 govern methods of obtaining, compiling, and maintaining such information he or she deems
34 necessary to manage such database including procedures for providing authorized access. The
35 commissioner shall also ensure that the database is secure from unauthorized access or use.

36 III. The commissioner may issue a waiver to a veterinarian who is unable to submit
37 information by electronic means. Such waiver may permit the veterinarian to submit information by

1 paper form or other means, provided all information required by RSA 437:8 is submitted in this
2 alternative format and within the established time limit.

3 IV. The commissioner may grant a reasonable extension to a veterinarian who is unable, for
4 good cause, to submit all the information required by RSA 437:8 within the established time limits.
5 Any veterinarian who in good faith reports to the program as required by RSA 437:8 shall be
6 immune from any civil or criminal liability as the result of such good faith reporting.

7 V. There is established a nonlapsing fund to be known as the animal records database fund
8 in the department of agriculture, markets, and food which shall be kept distinct and separate from
9 all other funds. All moneys in the animal records database fund shall be nonlapsing and continually
10 appropriated to the commissioner, and except as otherwise provided in law, shall be used for the
11 purpose of administering and maintaining the animal records database established in this section.
12 The database fund shall draw moneys only from grants and appropriations.

13 VI. Notwithstanding paragraph V, the fund shall be initiated by transfers from the
14 agricultural product and scale testing fund established under RSA 435:20, IV, as provided in RSA
15 435:20, V.

16 437:8-b Confidentiality.

17 I. Information submitted to the animal records database is exempt from public disclosure,
18 and shall not be subject to discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion for release.
19 Disclosure to local, state, and federal officials is not public disclosure. This exemption shall not
20 affect the disclosure of information used in official local, state, or federal animal health
21 investigations or pet vendor license investigations under this chapter. Database records,
22 information, or lists may be made available pursuant to a court order on a case-by-case basis. Any
23 information, record, or list received pursuant to this paragraph shall not be transferred or otherwise
24 made available to any other person or listed entity not authorized under this paragraph.

25 II. The department shall establish and maintain procedures to ensure the privacy and
26 confidentiality of animal and animal owner information.

27 III. The department may use and release information and reports from the program for
28 program analysis and evaluation, statistical analysis, public research, public policy, and educational
29 purposes, provided that the data are aggregated or otherwise de-identified.

30 IV. No animal records database records, information, or lists shall be sold, rented,
31 transferred, or otherwise made available in whole or in part, in any form or format, directly or
32 indirectly, to another person.

33 V. Certificates of transfer shall be removed from the animal records database after 4 years.

34 VI. Any person who knowingly accesses, alters, destroys, publishes, or discloses animal
35 records database information except as authorized in this section or attempts to obtain such
36 information by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or subterfuge shall be guilty of a class B felony.

1 VII. Nothing in this section shall limit the right of a person damaged by a violation to
2 pursue any other appropriate cause of action.

3 303 Certificates of Transfer for Dogs and Cats. RSA 437:8 is repealed and reenacted to read as
4 follows:

5 437:8 Certificates of Transfer for Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets.

6 I. For purposes of this chapter, an official certificate of transfer means an electronic record
7 electronically submitted to the animal records database by a licensed veterinarian, containing the
8 name and address of the entity transferring ownership of the dog, cat, or ferret, the age, gender,
9 breed, microchip number, tattoo number, ear tag number, or physical description of the dog, cat, or
10 ferret, and the certification by the veterinarian that the dog, cat, or ferret is free from evidence of
11 communicable diseases or internal or external parasites. A list of all vaccines and medication
12 administered to the dog, cat, or ferret shall be included in or attached to the certificate. An official
13 certificate of transfer is distinct from a federal certificate of veterinary inspection and is not
14 interchangeable with a certificate of veterinary inspection.

15 II. The electronically submitted certificate of transfer shall be considered the official
16 certificate of transfer. A copy of the certificate of transfer of the dog, cat, or ferret offered for
17 transfer by a licensee shall be kept on the premises where dogs, cats, and ferrets are displayed, and
18 made available for inspection by the department, local officials, or a member of the public upon
19 request up to one year after the animal has left the facility. The public shall be informed of their
20 right to inspect a copy of the certificate of transfer for each dog, cat, or ferret offered for transfer by a
21 sign prominently displayed in the area where dogs, cats, or ferrets are displayed. Upon transfer of a
22 dog, cat, or ferret, a copy of that animal's certificate of transfer shall be given to the transferee in
23 addition to any other documents which are customarily delivered to the transferee.

24 III. For purposes of this chapter, an official certificate of transfer waiver means an electronic
25 record electronically submitted to the animal records database provided in lieu of an official
26 certificate of transfer for a dog, cat, or ferret that has failed the examination for an official certificate
27 of transfer because of a non-contagious illness, feline leukemia, or feline immunodeficiency virus.
28 The waiver shall contain the name and address of the entity transferring ownership of the dog, cat,
29 or ferret; the age, gender, breed, microchip number, tattoo number, ear tag number, or physical
30 description of the dog, cat, or ferret; the reason for failure of the examination for the official
31 certificate of transfer; and the signature of the transferee indicating that the transferee has
32 knowledge of the dog's, cat's, or ferret's non-contagious medical condition. A list of all vaccines and
33 medication administered to the dog, cat, or ferret shall be included in or attached to the certificate of
34 transfer waiver. The waiver shall be submitted electronically to the animal records database by a
35 New Hampshire licensed veterinarian.

36 IV. No person, firm, corporation, or other entity shall ship or bring into the state of New
37 Hampshire, to offer for transfer in the state of New Hampshire, any cat, dog, or ferret less than 8

1 weeks of age. No person, firm, corporation, or other entity shall offer for transfer any cat, dog, or
2 ferret less than 8 weeks of age.

3 V. Once a dog, cat, or ferret intended for transfer has entered the state, it shall be held at
4 least 48 hours at a facility licensed under RSA 437 or at a facility operated by a licensed veterinarian
5 separated from other animals on the premises before being offered for transfer.

6 VI. No animal shelter shall transfer any dog, cat or ferret that is received from outside of the
7 state until the quarantine requirements in 437:8, V have been met and without an official transfer
8 certificate. Animal shelter facilities, as defined in RSA 437:1, I, are exempt from the requirements of
9 this section relative to transferring dogs, cats, and ferrets except that:

10 (a) All animal shelter facilities shall have on premises a microchip scanner and shall
11 maintain a file of recognized pet retrieval agencies, including but not limited to national tattoo or
12 microchip registries.

13 (b) Where an owner is not known, all animal shelter facilities shall inspect for tattoos,
14 ear tags, or other permanent forms of positive identification and shall scan for a microchip upon
15 admission of an unclaimed or abandoned animal as defined in RSA 437:18, IV and prior to
16 transferring ownership of an unclaimed or abandoned animal.

17 VII. No dog, cat, or ferret shall be offered for transfer by a licensee or by any individual
18 without first being protected against infectious diseases using vaccines approved by the state
19 veterinarian. No dog, cat, or ferret shall be offered for transfer by a licensee or by any individual
20 unless accompanied by a copy of the official certificate of transfer or official certificate of transfer
21 waiver issued by a licensed veterinarian within the prior 14 days. No transfer shall occur unless the
22 transferred animal is accompanied by a copy of the official certificate of transfer or official certificate
23 of transfer waiver. The official certificate of transfer or official certificate of transfer waiver shall
24 reside in the animal records database. Copies shall be provided to the veterinarian, transferor, and
25 the transferee, who shall retain copies for their records. The transferor shall retain a copy for his or
26 her records. If an official certificate of transfer or official certificate of transfer waiver is produced, it
27 shall be prima facie evidence of transfer.

28 304 New Subparagraph; Animal Records Database Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting
29 after subparagraph (364) the following new subparagraph:

30 (365) Moneys deposited in the animal records database fund established in RSA
31 437:8-a, V.

32 305 New Paragraph; Agricultural Product and Scale Testing Fund; Transfer Authority. Amend
33 RSA 435:20 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

34 V. The commissioner shall transfer funds from the agricultural product and scale testing
35 fund established under RSA 435:20, IV to the animal records database fund established in RSA
36 437:8-a to develop and make operational the animal records database. The commissioner shall
37 certify to the secretary of state and the director of the office of legislative services the date on which

1 the animal records database is operational. For 2 years after such certification, if needed for
2 database operation and maintenance, the commissioner may continue to transfer additional funds
3 from the agricultural product and scale testing fund to the animal records database fund for this
4 purpose.

5 306 Repeal. RSA 435:20, V, relative to the authority of the commissioner of the department of
6 agriculture, markets, and food to transfer funds from the agricultural product and scale testing fund,
7 is repealed.

8 307 Applicability; Effective Dates.

9 I. Section 303 of this act shall take effect 90 days after the commissioner of the department
10 of agriculture, markets, and food certifies to the secretary of state and the director of the office of
11 legislative services that the animal records database established in RSA 437:8-a is operational.

12 II. Section 306 of this act shall take effect 2 years from the date on which the commissioner
13 of the department of agriculture, markets, and food certifies to the secretary of state and the director
14 of the office of legislative services, that the animal records database established in RSA 437:8-a is
15 operational.

16 308 Appropriation. The sum of \$250,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 is hereby
17 appropriated to the department of agriculture, markets, and food for the maintenance of the animal
18 records database. These appropriations are in addition to any other funds appropriated to the
19 department of agriculture, markets, and food. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said
20 sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

21 309 Position Established. The classified position of IT manager III is established in the
22 department of information technology to develop and administer the animal records database
23 established in RSA 437:8-a.

24 310 Effective Date.

25 I. Section 302 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

26 II. Section 303 of this act shall take effect as provided in paragraph I of section 307 of this
27 act.

28 III. Section 306 of this act shall take effect as provided in paragraph II of section 307 of this
29 act.

30 311 Community College System of New Hampshire; Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Program.
31 Amend RSA 188-E:25 through 188-E:29 to read as follows:

32 188-E:25 Definitions. In this subdivision:

33 I. **"CCSNH" means the community college system of New Hampshire.**

34 II. "Concurrent enrollment" means courses taught at the high school by high school teachers
35 approved by [~~the community college system of New Hampshire (CCSNH)~~ CCSNH in which high
36 school students earn both high school and college or university credit while students are still
37 attending high school or a career technical education center.

1 ~~II.~~ **III.** "Dual enrollment" means college courses taught by instructors from ~~the community~~
2 college system of New Hampshire (~~CCSNH~~) **CCSNH** in which high school students earn college
3 credit while students are still enrolled in high school or a career technical education center.

4 188-E:26 Program Established. There is established a dual and concurrent enrollment program
5 in ~~the department of education~~ **CCSNH**. Participation in the program shall be offered to high
6 school and career technical education center students in grades 10 through 12. The program shall
7 provide opportunities for qualified New Hampshire high school students to gain access and support
8 for dual and concurrent enrollment in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)
9 and STEM-related courses that are fundamental for success in postsecondary education and to meet
10 New Hampshire's emerging workforce needs.

11 188-E:27 Enrollment Requirements.

12 I. An interested high school student in grades 10 through 12 may enroll in a course that is
13 designated by ~~the~~ **CCSNH** as part of the dual and concurrent enrollment program.

14 II. A student in the program shall be provided funding for enrollment in no more than 2 dual
15 or concurrent enrollment courses taken in grade 10, no more than 2 dual or concurrent enrollment
16 courses taken in grade 11, and no more than 2 dual or concurrent enrollment courses taken in grade
17 12. A student may take more than 2 dual or concurrent enrollment courses per year at his or her
18 own expense.

19 III.(a) The state shall pay the current rate of concurrent enrollment tuition, which is
20 established at \$150 per course, to the **CCSNH** institution where a high school or career and technical
21 education student successfully completes the concurrent enrollment course.

22 (b) The state shall pay the current rate of dual enrollment tuition, which is established
23 at 1/2 the regular cost of the course, to the **CCSNH** institution where a high school or career and
24 technical education student successfully completes a dual enrollment course and ~~the~~ **CCSNH** shall
25 accept such amount as full payment for course tuition.

26 IV. Each high school should provide a designated individual to serve as the point of contact
27 on matters related to the program, including but not limited to, student counseling, support services,
28 course scheduling, managing course forms and student registration, program evaluation, course
29 transferability, and assisting with online courses. Each high school shall annually notify all high
30 school students and their parents of dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities.

31 188-E:28 School Board Policy.

32 I. No later than July 1, 2018, the school board of each school district shall develop and adopt
33 a policy permitting students residing in the district who are in grade 11 or 12 to participate in the
34 dual and concurrent enrollment program. The policy shall, at a minimum, include compliance with
35 measurable educational standards and criteria approved by ~~the~~ **CCSNH** and that meet the same
36 standard of quality and rigor as courses offered on campus by ~~the~~ **CCSNH**. The policy shall also
37 comply with the standards for accreditation and program development established by the National

1 Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. The policy shall include, but not be limited to,
2 student eligibility criteria, standards for course content, standards for faculty approval, program
3 coordination and communication requirements, tuition and fees, textbooks and materials, course
4 grading policy, data collection, maintenance, and security, revenue and expenditure reporting, and
5 process for renewal of the agreement.

6 II. The department of education and ~~the~~ CCSNH shall develop and approve a model dual
7 and concurrent enrollment agreement that shall be used by the CCSNH and the school board of a
8 school district participating in the dual and concurrent enrollment agreement program. The model
9 agreement shall include standards established by ~~the~~ CCSNH, shall include elements, standards,
10 and criteria that have been approved by the department of education and CCSNH, and shall serve as
11 the framework for the development, implementation, and administration of the dual and concurrent
12 enrollment program in each school district by clearly defining the procedures related to concurrent
13 and dual enrollment of high school students in college classes. ~~The department~~ CCSNH shall
14 further develop guidelines for the program relating to reporting, accountability, and payment of
15 available funds to ~~the~~ CCSNH.

16 188-E:29 Budget Requests.

17 I. The ~~commissioner of the department of education~~ **chancellor of CCSNH, or his or her**
18 **designee**, shall submit expenditure requests in accordance with RSA [9:4] **9:4-e** to fund the dual and
19 concurrent enrollment program established in this subdivision.

20 II. ***In the event expenditures by CCSNH for the dual and concurrent enrollment***
21 ***program exceed amounts appropriated by the state, the chancellor, or his or her designee,***
22 ***may request the fiscal committee of the general court authorize additional funding.***
23 ***Amounts requested under this paragraph shall be limited to direct program costs and***
24 ***shall not include costs relative to program administration. For funds requested and***
25 ***approved, the governor is authorized to draw a warrant from any money in the treasury***
26 ***not otherwise appropriated.***

27 312 Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Program; Appropriation. The sums of \$1,500,000 for the
28 fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and \$1,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, are hereby
29 appropriated to community college system of New Hampshire for the purpose of funding and
30 administering the dual and concurrent enrollment program under RSA 188-E:26. This
31 appropriation shall be in addition to any other funds appropriated to the community college system
32 of New Hampshire. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in
33 the treasury not otherwise appropriated. Said appropriation shall not lapse.

34 313 School Building Aid; Annual Grant for Leased Space. Amend the introductory paragraph of
35 RSA 198:15-hh, I to read as follows:

36 I. The amount of the annual grant for a lease to any school district duly organized, any city
37 maintaining a school department within its corporate organization, any cooperative school district as

1 defined in RSA 195:1, or any receiving district operating an area school as defined in RSA 195-A:1,
2 shall be a sum equal to 30 percent of the amount of the annual payment of the lease incurred, for the
3 cost of leasing permanent space in a building or buildings not owned by the school district or school
4 administrative unit which is used for the operation of a high school vocational technical education
5 program, to the extent approved by the state board of education. For the purposes of this section,
6 the amount of the annual grant for a lease to a vocational technical education center shall be
7 calculated in the same manner as a cooperative school district. The amount of the annual grant for a
8 chartered public school authorized under RSA 194-B:3-a shall be a sum equal to 30 percent of the
9 annual lease payment incurred for the cost of leasing space; provided that no annual grant for leased
10 space provided to a chartered public school in accordance with this section shall exceed ~~[\$30,000]~~
11 **\$50,000** in any fiscal year. The total amount of grants to schools pursuant to this section shall not
12 exceed the state appropriation for leased space. If the amount appropriated is insufficient therefor,
13 the appropriation shall be prorated proportionally among the schools eligible for a grant. Such lease
14 agreements shall be eligible for grants under this section, provided all of the following conditions
15 apply:

16 314 New Paragraph; Ten Year Plan for Grant Projects. Amend RSA 198:15-a by inserting after
17 paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

18 V. The department of education shall develop and maintain a 10-year school facilities plan of
19 potential school building grant projects. Potential projects shall include, but not be limited to,
20 criteria pursuant to RSA 198:15-c, II(b). The 10-year plan is intended to create a method to identify
21 and enhance school facilities in a safe, healthy, and efficient manner while providing adequate
22 learning environments for New Hampshire's students. The 10-year plan shall be updated every
23 biennium to provide the department a summary of projects and school facility capital expenditures
24 that are anticipated for the next 10 years. The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to
25 RSA 541-A relative to this paragraph. The plan shall identify new construction, renovation, and
26 emergency projects, and describe the overall condition of projects contained in the plan.

27 315 New Paragraph; Kindergarten Adequate Education Grants. Amend RSA 198:48-b by
28 inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

29 III. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, and every fiscal year thereafter, the amount
30 necessary to fund the grants under this section is hereby appropriated to the department from the
31 education trust fund established in RSA 198:39. If the balance in the education trust fund is less
32 than zero, the governor is authorized to draw a warrant for sufficient funds to eliminate such deficit
33 out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. The commissioner of the department
34 of administrative services shall inform the fiscal committee and the governor and council of such
35 balance. This reporting shall not in any way prohibit or delay the distribution of kindergarten
36 adequate education grants.

1 316 Appropriation; Department of Education. The sum of \$1,906,313 for the fiscal year ending
2 June 30, 2021 is hereby appropriated to the department of education for the purpose of funding and
3 distributing additional adequate education grants under RSA 198:48-b, I and II. Of this
4 appropriation, \$840,039 shall be for payments for those districts that would have been eligible for
5 said grants had the provisions of RSA 198:48-b, I and II, been in effect for the fiscal year ending
6 June 30, 2020. Said appropriation shall be a charge against the education trust fund and shall not
7 lapse.

8 317 Effective Date. Sections 315 and 316 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

9 318 School Planning Committees; Vacancies. Amend RSA 671:33 to read as follows:
10 671:33 Vacancies.

11 I. Vacancies among members of cooperative or area school planning committees shall be
12 filled by the moderator for the unexpired term.

13 II.(a) The school board shall fill vacancies occurring on the school board, except as provided
14 in subparagraph (b), and in all other district offices for which no other method of filling a vacancy is
15 provided. Appointees of the school board shall serve until the next district election when the voters
16 of the district shall elect a replacement for the unexpired term. In the case of a vacancy of the entire
17 membership of the school board, or if the remaining members are unable, by majority vote, to agree
18 upon an appointment, the selectmen of the town or towns involved shall appoint members by
19 majority vote in convention.

20 (b) In a cooperative school district, the remaining school board members representing
21 the same town or towns as the departed member shall fill a vacancy on the school board, provided
22 that there are at least 2 such members. ***A member-at-large shall also be included as a***
23 ***representative of the same town.*** If there are less than 2 remaining members on the cooperative
24 school board representing the same town or towns as the departed member, or if the remaining
25 members are unable, by majority vote, to agree upon an appointment, the selectmen of the town or
26 towns involved shall fill the vacancy by majority vote in convention. If the selectmen are unable to
27 fill the vacancy then the cooperative school district moderator shall make the appointment. A
28 member appointed to fill a vacancy under this subparagraph shall serve until the next district
29 election when the voters of the district shall elect a replacement for the unexpired term.

30 III. Vacancies in the office of moderator shall be filled by vote at a school meeting or election,
31 provided that, until a replacement is chosen, the school district clerk shall serve as moderator or
32 shall appoint a moderator pro tempore.

33 IV. In a cooperative school district, the remaining budget committee members representing
34 the same town or towns as the departed member shall fill a vacancy on the budget committee,
35 provided that there are at least 2 such members. ***A member-at-large shall also be included as***
36 ***a representative of the same town.*** If there are less than 2 remaining members on the budget
37 committee representing the same town or towns as the departed member, or if the remaining

1 members are unable, by majority vote, to agree upon an appointment, the selectmen of the town or
2 towns involved shall fill the vacancy by majority vote in convention. If the selectmen are unable to
3 fill the vacancy then the cooperative school district moderator shall make the appointment. If the
4 vacancy is for the cooperative school board representative to the cooperative school district budget
5 committee, such vacancy shall be filled by the cooperative school board. A member appointed to fill a
6 vacancy under this subparagraph shall serve until the next district election when the voters of the
7 district shall elect a replacement for the unexpired term.

8 319 Appropriation; Department of Transportation.

9 I. There is hereby appropriated to the department of transportation the sum of \$11,000,000
10 for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, which shall be expended pursuant to this section. The
11 governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not
12 otherwise appropriated.

13 II. The sum appropriated in this section shall be allocated as follows:

14 (a) \$5,000,000 for the highway and bridge betterment program established in RSA
15 235:23-a.

16 (b) \$6,000,000 for the acquisition of fleet vehicles and equipment.

17 320 Appropriation; Department of Education.

18 I. There is hereby appropriated to the department of education the sum of \$30,000,000, for
19 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, for school building aid on new projects under RSA 198:15-a.
20 This appropriation shall be a charge against the education trust fund and shall not lapse until June
21 30, 2023.

22 II. The \$50,000,000 cap on school building aid grants for construction or renovation projects
23 approved by the department of education under RSA 198:15-a, IV shall be suspended for the
24 biennium ending June 30, 2023.

25 321 Section 320 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

26 322 Education Tax Revenue; Fiscal Year 2023. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and
27 notwithstanding RSA 76:3, the commissioner of the department of revenue administration shall set
28 the education tax rate at a level sufficient to generate revenue of \$263,000,000 when imposed on all
29 persons and property taxable pursuant to RSA 76:8, except property subject to tax under RSA 82 and
30 RSA 83-F. The education property tax rate shall be effective for tax periods beginning on or after
31 April 1, 2022. The rate shall be set to the nearest 1/2 cent necessary to generate the revenue
32 required in this section.

33 323 Supplemental Education Payment; Fiscal Year 2023. The commissioner of education, in
34 consultation with the commissioner of the department of revenue administration, shall determine if
35 any municipality's total education grant pursuant to RSA 198:41, including all statewide education
36 property tax raised and retained locally, is decreased due to the statewide education property tax
37 reduction in section 322 of this act. Any amounts identified shall be paid to impacted municipalities

1 pursuant to the distribution schedule under RSA 198:42. The governor is authorized to draw a
2 warrant from the education trust fund to satisfy the state's obligation under this section.

3 324 Effective Date. Sections 322 and 323 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

4 325 Department of Health and Human Services; Child Care Services. The commissioner of the
5 department of health and human services shall be responsible for determining, on an ongoing basis
6 through June 30, 2023, whether there is sufficient funding in account 05-95-42-421110-2977, class
7 536, to fund employment-related child care services to avoid a wait list. If at any time the
8 commissioner determines that funding is insufficient, he or she shall, to the extent allowed by
9 applicable federal regulations, utilize available federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
10 reserve funds to cover the amount of the shortfall. The department shall report quarterly to the
11 fiscal committee of the general court on any funds expended on employment-related child care
12 services, including funds budgeted in account 05-95-42-421110-2977 as well as federal Temporary
13 Assistance to Needy Families funds authorized by this section. The department shall provide
14 enrollment-based reimbursement, rather than attendance-based payment, to child care providers
15 who accept child care scholarships through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) for the
16 fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 using, to the extent allowable by applicable federal regulations,
17 federal recovery funds. No state general funds shall be used to make enrollment-based
18 reimbursement payments to providers.

19 326 Statement of Findings. The general court finds that:

20 I. Placement in corrections settings can be harmful to children and lead to increased
21 delinquency and adult criminal behavior. It should therefore be reserved for those circumstances in
22 which the safety of a child or of the community requires such confinement.

23 II. Placement of children who are not serious violent offenders in settings other than the
24 Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC) complies with The Families First Act, PL 115-123, and the
25 New Hampshire system of care established pursuant to 2019; 44 (SB 14), which prioritize
26 community-based treatment of children.

27 III. This act is in furtherance of these goals.

28 327 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services; Sununu Youth Services Center.
29 The sum of \$10,400,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 and the sum of \$9,922,157 for the
30 fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, are hereby appropriated to the department of health and human
31 services for the purpose of operating the Sununu youth services center as the department transitions
32 to an replacement facility. Of the amount appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022,
33 \$9,000,000 shall be state general funds and \$1,400,000 shall be other funds. Of the amount
34 appropriated in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, \$9,000,000 shall be state general funds and
35 \$922,157 shall be other funds. Such funds shall not lapse until June 30, 2023. The governor is
36 authorized to draw a warrant for the sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise
37 appropriated.

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1 328 Transfer of Funds for Operation of the Sununu Youth Services Center. Notwithstanding
2 RSA 9:16-a and RSA 9:16-c, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, prior approval of the fiscal
3 committee of the general court shall be required for any transfer of funds required for the operation
4 of the Sununu youth services center.

5 329 Findings; Sununu Youth Services Center. The general court finds that the current Sununu
6 youth services center shall be closed no later than March 1, 2023 and the opening of a replacement
7 facility shall occur no later than March 1, 2023.

8 330 Committee Established.

9 I. There is established a committee to develop a plan for the closure and replacement of the
10 Sununu youth services center. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

11 (a) Three members of the house of representatives, each of whom shall be from a
12 standing committee having jurisdiction over juvenile justice, appointed by the speaker of the house
13 of representatives.

14 (b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

15 II. In addition, the legislative members of the committee shall seek input and expert advice
16 from, but not limited to, the following:

17 (a) The department of health and human services.

18 (b) The office of the child advocate.

19 (c) The Disabilities Rights Center.

20 (d) The National Alliance on Mental Illness.

21 (e) New Futures.

22 (f) Any other group or organization the committee deems necessary.

23 III. Legislative members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
24 attending to the duties of the committee.

25 IV. The committee shall develop a plan for the closure and replacement of the Sununu youth
26 services center, including cost estimates for the construction and operation of a new facility. The
27 committee's plan for a replacement facility shall meet the following requirements:

28 (a) It shall be operated by the department of health and human services.

29 (b) It shall be designed to meet the unique needs of up to 18 youth at a time who are at
30 the facility pursuant to RSA 169-B:14, detention; RSA 169-B:19, commitment; RSA 169-B:24,
31 transfer to superior court, RSA 169-B:32; RSA 651:17-a, service of adult sentence of incarceration at
32 the youth development center, and 169-A, interstate compact on juveniles.

33 (c) It shall accommodate requirements to separate youth by gender, treatment needs,
34 court order, safety, and security. The facility shall include 3 separate residential spaces, each
35 including capacity for 6 youth.

36 (d) It shall have capacity to provide services to meet the medical, physical, and
37 behavioral health needs of all potentially eligible youth.

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1 (e) It shall have space for 18 beds, including space for flexibility to meet the needs of all
2 genders, safety and security, crisis stabilization and admissions and discharges.

3 (f) It shall have adequate space to meet the educational needs of all youth potentially
4 eligible, including youth with special education needs.

5 (g) It shall have adequate space for indoor and outdoor recreation.

6 (h) It shall have the capacity to meet the nutritional needs of all youth.

7 (i) It shall have necessary elements to be architecturally secure and equipped with video
8 surveillance.

9 (j) The opening of the replacement facility shall be no later than March 1, 2023.

10 V. The committee shall prepare legislation relative to the implementation of the plan
11 developed in paragraph IV for submission for the 2022 legislative session.

12 VI. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members.
13 The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named senate member. The first
14 meeting of the committee shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this section. Four
15 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

16 VII. The committee shall issue their final report to speaker of the house of representatives,
17 the senate president, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or
18 before November 1, 2021 and submit the plan to the joint fiscal committee for approval.

19 331 Department of Health and Human Services; Closed Loop Referral System.
20 Notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary, there shall be no further expansion
21 of the "closed loop referral" system by the department of health and human services beyond that
22 which has been or will be implemented pursuant to the sole source grant agreement to Unite USA
23 Inc. of Nashua in the amount of \$700,000 dated October 19, 2020. Before the department
24 undertakes any further utilization of the closed loop referral system beyond that authorized by the
25 preceding sentence, the legislative oversight committee on health and human services, established in
26 RSA 126-A:13, shall conduct a comprehensive review of the information intended to be stored in the
27 master index file or accessed using the master indexes within and between the closed loop referral
28 system and other interconnected systems. Further, the oversight committee shall assess the privacy
29 protections and access/release limitations afforded by this system, and the adequacy of the
30 procedures utilized by the system to insure that persons using it have given informed consent to the
31 ("opt-in") release of their personally identifiable information available through the system of
32 systems. The department shall provide all requested data and information regarding the closed loop
33 referral system and systems with which it is intended to interconnect within one week of the request
34 by the oversight committee. The oversight committee shall report its findings and recommendations,
35 if any, to the legislature, the governor, and the department of health and human services by
36 November 1, 2021. The department of health and human services is prohibited from accessing an
37 individual's information from the closed loop referral system who is not receiving services funded

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1 through a department of health and human services program. Within 48 hours of becoming aware of
2 a data breach, Unite USA Inc. shall begin the process of notification by first class mail to all
3 individuals impacted by the data breach. Any individual whose information is intended to be
4 included in the closed loop referral shall retain the right to opt in to the system on each referral and
5 retain the right to revoke consent to be in the system at any time.

6 332 American Rescue Plan Act; Unanticipated Revenue. Funds received by municipalities from
7 the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 may be considered unanticipated revenue under RSA 31:95-b
8 and may be accepted and expended pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, II-IV whether or not a political
9 subdivision has adopted the provisions of RSA 31:95-b.

10 333 Salary Schedules. RSA 99:1-a is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

11 99:1-a Salary Schedules. The department of administrative services shall develop and
12 implement for the executive branch such salary schedules as authorized by collective bargaining
13 agreements between the state and an employee organization and subject to appropriation. The
14 department shall apply the appropriate salary schedules to all unrepresented employees. The
15 department shall post base salary schedules on its public Internet website.

16 334 Corrections Officers' Salaries.

17 I. Effective July 2, 2021, part-time corrections officers and corrections officer corporals shall
18 be compensated in accordance with the salary schedule applicable to full-time corrections officers
19 and corrections officer corporals.

20 II. Effective July 2, 2021, corrections officer majors shall be compensated in accordance with
21 the salary schedule applicable to corrections officer lieutenants, sergeants and captains.

22 335 Parking; Concord. The department of administrative services is authorized to spend such
23 funding as appropriated for additional parking for full-time and part-time employees who are
24 assigned to the downtown Concord area and who are not provided a state-provided parking space for
25 their personal vehicle.

26 336 Compensation for Certain State Officers; Unclassified State Employees; July 2, 2021. RSA
27 94:1-a, I (a) is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

28 I.(a) The following salary ranges shall apply to the following grades:

GRADE	STEP 01	STEP 02	STEP 03	STEP 04	STEP 05	STEP 06	STEP 07
AA	56,082.00	59,748.00	63,388.00	67,054.00	70,694.00	74,360.00	78,026.00
BB	58,318.00	62,114.00	65,910.00	69,732.00	73,528.00	77,324.00	81,120.00
CC	61,022.00	65,000.00	68,978.00	72,982.00	76,960.00	80,938.00	84,942.00
DD	64,246.00	68,432.00	72,644.00	76,830.00	81,042.00	85,228.00	89,414.00
EE	68,042.00	72,488.00	76,934.00	81,406.00	85,852.00	90,298.00	94,744.00
FF	72,748.00	77,506.00	82,264.00	87,048.00	91,806.00	96,564.00	101,322.00
GG	78,520.00	83,668.00	88,816.00	93,964.00	99,112.00	104,260.00	109,408.00
HH	85,514.00	91,104.00	96,720.00	102,336.00	107,952.00	113,568.00	119,184.00

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1	PP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	167,206.00
2	QQ	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	176,696.00

3 339 Salary Wages for Councilors and Commissioners; July 1, 2022. RSA 94:1-a, II is repealed
4 and reenacted to read as follows:

5 II. The salary wages for the positions set forth below shall be as follows commencing July 1,
6 2022:

7		Maximum
8	Governor's councilors	\$17,940.00
9	Racing and charitable gaming commissioners	\$13,910.00
10	Sweepstakes commission, chairman	\$20,228.00
11	Sweepstakes commission, members	\$11,388.00

12 340 Department of Justice; Attorney Salaries; July 2, 2021. RSA 94:1-a, I(c) is repealed and
13 reenacted to read as follows:

14 I.(c) For attorney positions in the department of justice, except for the attorney general and
15 deputy attorney general, the following shall apply commencing on July 2, 2021:

16		Minimum	Market anchor	Maximum
17		\$54,617		\$126,532
18	Attorney		\$65,838	
19	Assistant attorney general		\$89,682	
20	Senior assistant attorney general		\$110,722	
21	Associate attorney general		\$121,943	

22 341 Department of Justice; Attorney Salaries; July 1, 2022. RSA 94:1-a, I(c) is repealed and
23 reenacted to read as follows:

24 I.(c) For attorney positions in the department of justice, except for the attorney general and
25 deputy attorney general, the following shall apply commencing on July 1, 2022:

26		Minimum	Market anchor	Maximum
27		\$55,252		\$128,001
28	Attorney		\$66,603	
29	Assistant attorney general		\$90,723	
30	Senior assistant attorney general		\$112,007	
31	Associate attorney general		\$123,359	

32 342 Legislative Employees; July 2, 2021. Legislative employees shall receive 1.16 percent salary
33 increases effective July 2, 2021, if such increases are approved by the appointing authority.

34 343 Legislative Employees; July 1, 2022. Legislative employees shall receive 1.16 percent salary
35 increases effective July 1, 2022, if such increases are approved by the appointing authority.

36 344 Judicial Salaries; July 2, 2021. RSA 491-A:1 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

37 491-A:1 Salaries Established. The salaries for the positions set forth below shall be as follows:

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1	Chief justice, supreme court	\$183,394						
2	Associate justices, supreme court	\$177,878						
3	Chief justice, superior court and administrative							
4	judges appointed pursuant to supreme							
5	court rule 54	\$177,878						
6	Associate justices, superior court	\$166,825						
7	District court justices prohibited							
8	from practice pursuant to							
9	RSA 502-A:21	\$166,825						
10	Probate judges prohibited from							
11	practice pursuant to RSA 547:2-a	\$166,825						
12	345 Judicial Salaries; July 1, 2022. RSA 491-A:1 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:							
13	491-A:1 Salaries Established. The salaries for the positions set forth below shall be as follows:							
14	Chief justice, supreme court	\$185,522						
15	Associate justices, supreme court	\$179,942						
16	Chief justice, superior court and administrative							
17	judges appointed pursuant to supreme							
18	court rule 54	\$179,942						
19	Associate justices, superior court	\$168,761						
20	District court justices prohibited							
21	from practice pursuant to							
22	RSA 502-A:21	\$168,761						
23	Probate judges prohibited from							
24	practice pursuant to RSA 547:2-a	\$168,761						
25	346 Judges; State Employee Health Plan; Application. The cost sharing and plan design for							
26	judges who participate in the health plans offered by the state shall be the same as those for							
27	individuals covered by the collective bargaining agreement between the state of New Hampshire and							
28	the State Employees' Association of New Hampshire, Inc.							
29	347 Judicial Employees; July 2, 2021. All unrepresented judicial employees shall receive 1.16							
30	percent salary increases on July 2, 2021.							
31	348 Judicial Employees; July 1, 2022. All unrepresented judicial employees shall receive 1.16							
32	percent salary increases on July 1, 2022.							
33	349 Appropriations.							
34	I. The following sums are appropriated from the following sources for the purposes of							
35	sections 333 -352 of this act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022:							
36	FY 2022							
37	All	Liquor	General	Federal	Highway	Turnpike	Fish & Game	Other

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1 \$12,592,000 \$400,000 \$5,750,000 \$1,773,000 \$1,265,000 \$235,000 \$99,000 \$3,070,000

2 II. The following sums are appropriated from the following sources for the purposes of
3 sections 333-352 of this act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023:

4 FY 2023

5 All Liquor General Federal Highway Turnpike Fish & Game Other
6 \$23,208,000 \$800,000 \$10,250,000 \$3,484,000 \$2,486,000 \$455,000 \$183,000 \$5,550,000

7 III. The department of administrative services is authorized to make any rounding
8 adjustments of up to +\$.01 per hour as needed to properly process the employee's payroll within the
9 currently designed human resources/payroll system (NH FIRST).

10 350 Longevity Pay. Amend RSA 94:4 to read as follows:

11 94:4 Longevity Pay. Any state official who has completed 10 years of service for the state shall
12 be paid, in addition to his or her statutory salary the sum of ~~[\$300]~~ **\$350** annually and an additional
13 ~~[\$300]~~ **\$350** for each additional 5 years of state service. Any state official who transfers, without a
14 break in service, to a position in the classified system may transfer all time served for purposes of
15 longevity pay.

16 351 Longevity Pay for Regular Classified Employees. Amend RSA 99:5 to read as follows:

17 99:5 Longevity Payment for Regular Classified Employees. Any regular classified employee of
18 the state who has completed 10 years of continuous service for the state other than a law
19 enforcement employee, shall be paid, in addition to the salary to which he or she is entitled by the
20 classification plan, the sum of ~~[\$300]~~ **\$350** annually and an additional ~~[\$300]~~ **\$350** for each
21 additional 5 years of continuous state service. The additional compensation provided by the
22 provisions of this section shall not affect the maximums set by the classification plan and the receipt
23 of said long service payments shall not prohibit the recipient from receiving the yearly increments to
24 which he or she may be otherwise entitled within his or her classification ranges. Any regular
25 classified employee who transfers, without a break in service, to a position in the unclassified system
26 may transfer all time served for purposes of longevity pay.

27 352 Longevity Pay for New Hampshire State Troopers. Amend RSA 99:5-a to read as follows:

28 99:5-a Longevity Payments for New Hampshire State Troopers and State Trooper Command
29 Staff. Any state trooper or eligible state trooper command staff member who has completed 10 years
30 of continuous service for the state shall be paid, in addition to the salary to which he or she is
31 entitled by the classification plan, the sum of ~~[\$300]~~ **\$350** annually and an additional ~~[\$300]~~ **\$350** for
32 each additional 5 years of continuous law enforcement service. The additional compensation
33 provided by the provisions of this section shall not affect the maximums set by the classification plan
34 and the receipt of said long service payments shall not prohibit the recipient from receiving the
35 yearly increments to which he or she may be otherwise entitled within his or her classification
36 ranges. Any state trooper or eligible state trooper command staff member who transfers, without a

1 break in service, to a position in the unclassified system may transfer all time served for purposes of
2 longevity pay.

3 353 Repeals. The following are repealed:

4 I. RSA 99:1-b, relative to New Hampshire state trooper salaries.

5 II. RSA 99:3, relative to increases in salary.

6 354 Effective Date.

7 I. Sections 336, 337, 340, 342, 344, and 347 of this act shall take effect July 2, 2021.

8 II. Sections 338, 339, 341 343, 345 and 348 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

9 355 Department of Administrative Services; Rehiring of Laid Off Classified State Employees.

10 I. For purposes of this section, "laid off" means any person in a classified position as
11 described in RSA 21-I:49 who receives written notice of the state's intent to lay him or her off or who
12 is laid off between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2023, as a result of reorganization or downsizing of
13 state government.

14 II. It is the intent of the general court that any classified position which becomes available
15 in a department or establishment, as defined in RSA 9:1, shall be filled, if possible, by a state
16 employee laid off, as defined in paragraph I, if such person is not currently employed by the state of
17 New Hampshire, if he or she meets the minimum qualifications for the position, and if he or she does
18 not receive a promotion as a result of the rehire.

19 III. The head of each department or agency shall submit the name and classification of any
20 individual laid off between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2023, to the director of the division of
21 personnel within 10 days of the layoff.

22 356 New Subdivision; Granite State Paid Family Leave Plan. Amend RSA 21-I by inserting
23 after section 95 the following new subdivision:

24 Granite State Paid Family Leave Plan

25 21-I:96 Granite State Paid Family Leave Plan. There is hereby established the granite state
26 paid family leave plan, which shall be implemented under this subdivision and as provided in RSA
27 282-B and RSA 77-E.

28 21-I:97 Purpose and Policy. The purpose of this subdivision is to leverage the purchasing power
29 and economies of scale available to the state when it is acting as purchaser on behalf of state
30 employees and to align this purchasing initiative with a business tax incentive in order to make
31 available to all other public and private employers in the state, on a voluntary basis, advantageously
32 priced family and medical leave insurance (FMLI) wage replacement benefits. By purchasing FMLI
33 coverage for state employees through the medium of commercial insurance, by linking that contract
34 with a contract to make the same coverage available statewide, by acting as premium aggregator for
35 individuals whose employers do not sponsor such coverage, and by introducing a new business tax
36 incentive, the state will position itself to create a market for advantageously priced FMLI benefits.
37 It is the intent of this subdivision to significantly increase the number of employees in the state who

1 receive FMLI wage replacement benefits. The social benefits of increasing the rate of FMLI coverage
2 include attracting and retaining workers, including younger workers, to the state, enabling parents
3 to bond with biological, adopted, or foster children, helping to meet the needs of an aging population,
4 promoting workplace stability, and enhancing worker retention and productivity. While many larger
5 employers provide paid FMLI benefits through self-insurance, this is not feasible for most mid-sized
6 and smaller businesses. The general court therefore finds that it is in the public interest for the
7 state to strategically use its purchasing power and tax expenditure authority to establish a
8 marketplace in the state for advantageously priced FMLI wage replacement benefits.

9 21-I:98 Definitions. In this subdivision:

10 I. "Child" has the same meaning as "son or daughter" in 29 U.S.C. section 2611.(12).

11 II. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of administrative services.

12 III. "Department" means the department of administrative services.

13 IV. "Family and medical leave" means leave from work:

14 (a) Because of the birth of a child of the employee, within the past 12 months;

15 (b) Because of the placement of a child with the employee for adoption or fostering
16 within the past 12 months;

17 (c) Because of a serious health condition of a family member; or

18 (d) Because of any qualifying exigency arising from foreign deployment with the armed
19 forces, or to care for a service member with a serious injury or illness as permitted under the federal
20 Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 U.S.C. section 2612(a)(1)(E) and 29 C.F.R. section 825.126(a)(1)-
21 (8), as they existed on October 19, 2017, for family members as defined in paragraph VI.

22 V. "Family and Medical Leave Act" means the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of
23 1993, Pub.L. 103-3, 29 U.S.C. section 2601 et seq.

24 VI. "Family member" means a "child" as defined in paragraph I, a biological, adoptive, or
25 foster parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of the child or the child's spouse or domestic partner, a
26 biological, adoptive, or foster grandparent or step grandparent, or a spouse or domestic partner.

27 VII. "FMLI" means family and medical leave insurance providing wage replacement benefits
28 under specified conditions.

29 VIII. "Serious health condition" means any illness of a family member covered by the Family
30 and Medical Leave Act including treatment for addiction as prescribed by a treating clinician,
31 consistent with American Society of Addiction Medicine criteria, as well as treatment for a mental
32 health condition, consistent with American Psychiatric Association criteria.

33 IX. "State rate" means the per employee premium amount that is charged by the successful
34 bidder for the state contract for FMLI coverage for state government employees as provided in this
35 subdivision. The state rate shall be expressed as a percentage of wages.

36 21-I:99 Contracting and Administrative Authority.

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1 I. The commissioner may solicit information about, seek proposals for, negotiate, enter into,
2 and administer group insurance contracts with duly authorized accident and life insurance carriers
3 as necessary and appropriate to provide to qualifying state employees, at state expense and at no
4 cost to such employees, an FMLI plan of wage replacement as described in this subdivision. The
5 provision of this coverage shall be considered a matter of legislatively established public policy that
6 is designed to benefit all employers and employees in the state and that is "confined exclusively to
7 the public employer by statute" as provided in RSA 273-A:1, XI and shall not be subject to collective
8 bargaining. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to invalidate any portion of a collective
9 bargaining agreement entered into by the state.

10 II. The state shall provide to all permanent state employees wage replacement coverage for
11 qualified leave, which shall be available for the same types of leave as protected under the Family
12 and Medical Leave Act except leave for a health condition of the employee. This shall include leave
13 for:

14 (a) The birth of a child and the care of the newborn child within one year of birth;

15 (b) The placement with the employee of a child for adoption or foster care and the care of
16 the newly placed child within one year of placement;

17 (c) Caring for the employee's spouse, child, or parent who has a serious health condition;

18 or

19 (d) Any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, child, or
20 parent is a covered military member on covered active duty, or caring for a covered service-member
21 with a serious injury or illness if the eligible employee is the service-member's spouse, child, parent,
22 or next of kin.

23 III. Subject to any changes authorized under RSA 21-I:103, the wage replacement benefits
24 under this FMLI plan shall be structured as follows:

25 (a) Eligible employees shall receive 60 percent of their average weekly wage.

26 (b) The maximum duration of wage replacement shall be 6 weeks per year, with no
27 minimum duration required.

28 (c) Wages used to determine the 60 percent FMLI coverage shall be capped at the
29 amount of the Social Security taxable wage maximum as amended from time to time.

30 IV. Except as provided in RSA 21-I:100, III regarding individual pool coverage, the
31 commissioner shall establish, through his or her discretionary authority in administering the
32 request for information and the request for proposals process, the following additional elements of
33 the benefit structure consistent with the purposes and policy of this subdivision:

34 (a) The base period by which the average weekly wage shall be determined.

35 (b) The tenure requirement, expressed in terms of months of work, before an employee is
36 eligible to be covered provided, however, that no tenure requirement shall apply to an employee who
37 has already met the requirement and then changes jobs.

1 (c) A waiting period or elimination period provided, however, that a waiting or
2 elimination period shall not be a required element of the benefit structure, and the commissioner
3 shall have authority to implement a plan with no such requirement.

4 21-I:100 State Employee Coverage Linked to Coverage Offerings for Other Employers and for
5 Individual Employees. The commissioner shall include in the request for proposals for FMLI
6 benefits for state employees a requirement that the winning bidder shall, as a condition of the state
7 contract, also offer the same FMLI coverage to other public employers, private employers with more
8 than 50 employees, and individual employees on the following terms:

9 I. Private and public non-state employers shall receive a rate that is derived from the state
10 rate through the application of rating factors that are actuarially justified and specified in the bid
11 response.

12 II. Employers with more than 50 employees who choose to sponsor coverage for their
13 employees shall contract directly with the winning bidder.

14 III. Individuals who work for employers who choose not to offer FMLI coverage under this
15 subdivision or who fail to meet minimum participation requirements and who do not offer an FMLI
16 benefit that is at least equivalent to the granite state paid family leave plan shall have the
17 opportunity to contract indirectly with the winning bidder through the purchasing pool for family
18 and medical leave insurance authorized under RSA 282-B and administered by the department of
19 employment security. The pool may be experience rated. Coverage through the pool shall include a
20 7-month waiting period, a one-week elimination period, and a 60-day annual open enrollment period
21 as established by the commissioner in the procurement process. Premiums for individual pool
22 coverage shall not exceed \$5 per subscriber per week.

23 IV. The commissioner shall establish, through his or her discretionary authority in
24 administering the request for information and the request for proposals process, the following
25 additional elements of the benefit structure and plan administration specifically for employees of
26 sponsoring non-state employers consistent with the purposes and policy of this subdivision:

27 (a) The minimum participation requirement.

28 (b) The parameters for open enrollment periods.

29 (c) Procedures for contributory plans, partially contributory plans, and non-contributory
30 plans.

31 (d) Procedures for payroll deduction and premium remittance for employers with more
32 than 50 employees.

33 21-I:101 Conditions of Non-State Employer Participation. Participation in the plan by non-state
34 employers shall be voluntary. In addition, non-state employers may choose to provide FMLI at no
35 cost to their employees or on a contributory or partially contributory basis.

36 21-I:102 Procurement Process. The commissioner may issue a request for information or a
37 request for proposals to secure FMLI coverage for all eligible employees of the state of New

1 Hampshire and to make advantageously priced coverage available to all other private employers
2 with more than 50 employees and public employers in the state as provided in this subdivision. The
3 department, the department of employment security, and the department of insurance shall jointly
4 evaluate the proposals received in response to the request for proposals. The department shall
5 contract with an insurance carrier or carriers to provide FMLI coverage. The contract with the
6 winning bidder shall be subject to governor and council approval. The selected insurance carrier
7 shall be licensed by the state of New Hampshire and in good standing. The selected insurance
8 carrier shall be subject to all applicable insurance laws and regulations of the state of New
9 Hampshire, and the rates and forms for the FMLI contracts shall be filed for approval with the
10 insurance commissioner.

11 21-I:103 Commissioner Discretion to Adjust Initial FMLI Benefit Structure. In exercising
12 authority under this subdivision to contract for FMLI coverage for state employees and also for the
13 availability of advantageously priced FMLI coverage for employees of all non-state employers, the
14 commissioner shall have discretionary authority in initiating this program to make changes to the
15 benefit structure of the FMLI plan under RSA 21-I:99, III and may retain a consulting actuary or
16 other benefit advisors in support of this discretionary determination. This discretionary authority
17 shall be exercised in consideration of the stated purposes and policy goals of this subdivision and of
18 the counsels of the FMLI advisory board established in RSA 21-I:104. Any such changes made under
19 this paragraph shall be subject to approval by the governor and council and the legislative fiscal
20 committee prior to implementation and shall be offered by the legislative fiscal committee as an
21 amendment to this subdivision in the next regular session of the general court.

22 21-I:104 Family and Medical Leave Insurance Advisory Board. There is hereby established the
23 family and medical leave insurance advisory board, which shall be administratively attached to the
24 department, and which shall hereinafter be called the FMLI advisory board. The FMLI advisory
25 board shall consist of 9 members to be appointed, with the exception of the legislative members, by
26 the governor. Three of the appointees shall be persons who, because of their vocations, employment,
27 or affiliations, shall represent employers; 3 shall be persons who, because of the vocations,
28 employment, or affiliations, shall represent employees; one shall be a senator appointed by the
29 senate president; one shall be a representative appointed by the speaker of the house of
30 representatives; the remaining appointee, who shall be appointed as chairman, shall be a person
31 whose training and experience qualify her or him to successfully resolve the problems of FMLI
32 procurement, eligibility, benefit design, and program administration. The advisory board shall meet
33 no later than 45 days after each calendar quarter and aid the commissioner in formulating policies
34 and discussing problems related to the implementation and administration of this subdivision and
35 RSA 282-B and in assuring impartiality and freedom from political influence in the solution of such
36 problems. Advisory board meetings shall provide opportunity for public comment.

37 21-I:105 Report and Outreach.

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1 I. Working in coordination with the commissioner of administrative services as provided in
2 RSA 282-B:6, I, the department shall produce, on an annual basis, a summary report on the granite
3 state paid family leave plan. This report shall be made public and delivered to the governor, the
4 senate president, and the speaker of the house of representatives. It shall include, but not be limited
5 to, a description of progress in carrying out the processes contemplated under this subdivision,
6 progress in improving the rate of FMLI coverage of employees in the state, and recommendations for
7 more fully achieving the purposes and policy goals of this subdivision.

8 II. Working in coordination with the department of employment security as provided in RSA
9 282-B:6, II, the department shall develop and implement an outreach program to ensure that
10 employers who might benefit from sponsoring FMLI coverage for their employees and individuals
11 who may be eligible to receive FMLI coverage under this subdivision are made aware of this
12 program. Outreach information shall explain in an easy to understand format, eligibility
13 requirements, benefit structures, and the process for accessing coverage, enrolling individuals, and
14 qualifying for the business tax credit provided for in RSA 77-E:3-d.

15 21-I:106 Rulemaking. The commissioner may adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, as deemed
16 necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

17 21-I:107 Appropriation and Funding Transfer. The state treasurer shall transfer funds from the
18 general fund to the department of administrative services for payment of the administrative and
19 implementation costs associated with this chapter.

20 21-I:108 Program Start-up. The request for proposals for FMLI coverage as described in this
21 subdivision shall be issued no later than January 1, 2022. The FMLI coverage shall be in place for
22 state government employees and available for purchase by other public and private employers with
23 more than 50 employees and individuals by October 1, 2022.

24 357 Insurance; Allocation of State Premium Tax. Amend RSA 400-A:32, III to read as follows:

25 III. (a) Except as provided in ~~subparagraph (b)~~ **subparagraphs (b) and (c)**, the taxes
26 imposed in paragraphs I and II of this section shall be promptly forwarded by the commissioner to
27 the state treasurer for deposit to the general fund.

28 (b) Taxes imposed attributable to premiums written for medical and other medical
29 related services for the newly eligible Medicaid population as provided for under RSA 126-AA shall
30 be deposited into the New Hampshire granite advantage health care trust fund established in RSA
31 126-AA:3. The commissioner shall notify the state treasurer of sums for deposit into the New
32 Hampshire granite advantage health care trust fund no later than 30 days after receipt of said taxes.
33 The moneys in the trust fund may be used for the administration of the New Hampshire granite
34 advantage health care program, established in RSA 126-AA.

35 (c) *Taxes imposed on premiums written by duly authorized insurance*
36 *companies for family and medical leave insurance written in connection with the*
37 *administration of RSA 21-I:96 through RSA 21-I:108 or RSA 282-B shall be deposited into*

1 *the FMLI premium stabilization trust fund established in RSA 282-B:5. The commissioner*
2 *shall notify the state treasurer of sums for deposit into the FMLI premium stabilization*
3 *trust fund no later than 30 days after receipt of said taxes.*

4 358 New Chapter; Purchasing Pool for Family and Medical Leave Insurance. Amend RSA by
5 inserting after chapter 282-A the following new chapter:

6

CHAPTER 282-B

7

PURCHASING POOL FOR FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE

8

282-B:1 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to establish a group purchasing mechanism
9 whereby individuals who work for employers with more than 50 employees who do not to offer either
10 family and medical leave insurance (FMLI) coverage under the granite state paid family leave plan
11 as authorized under RSA 21-I:96 through RSA 21-I:108 or an FMLI benefit that is at least
12 equivalent to such coverage will have the opportunity to purchase granite state paid family leave
13 plan coverage through a mechanism established by the state in conjunction with the state
14 government employee FMLI plan.

15

282-B:2 Definitions. In this chapter:

16

I. "Child" has the same meaning as "son or daughter" in 29 U.S.C. section 2611(12).

17

II. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of employment security.

18

III. "Department" means the department of employment security.

19

IV. "Employer" has the same definition as relevant provisions of RSA 282-A:8, except as
20 provided in RSA 282-A:9.

21

V. "Employment" means wages paid for services by an employer that is covered by this
22 chapter.

23

VI. "Family and medical leave" means leave from work:

24

(a) Because of the birth of a child of the employee, within the past 12 months;

25

(b) Because of the placement of a child with the employee for adoption or fostering
26 within the past 12 months;

27

(c) Because of a serious health condition of a family member; or

28

(d) Because of any qualifying exigency arising from foreign deployment with the armed
29 forces, or to care for a service member with a serious injury or illness as permitted under the federal
30 Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 U.S.C. section 2612(a)(1)(E) and 29 C.F.R. section 825.126(a)(1)
31 through (8), as they existed on October 19, 2017, for family members as defined in paragraph VIII.

32

(e) A serious health condition of the employee that isn't related to employment and their
33 employer does not offer Short Term Disability insurance.

34

VII. "Family and Medical Leave Act" means the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of
35 1993, Pub.L. 103-3, 29 U.S.C. section 2601 et seq.

1 VIII. "Family member" means a child, a biological, adoptive, or foster parent, stepparent, or
2 legal guardian of the child or the child's spouse or domestic partner, a biological, adoptive, or foster
3 grandparent or step grandparent, or a spouse or domestic partner.

4 IX. "FMLI" means family and medical leave insurance providing wage replacement benefits
5 under specified conditions.

6 X. "Individual Pool" means the pooled purchasing mechanism established in this chapter for
7 the purpose of providing individual employees of employers who do not sponsor qualifying FMLI
8 coverage the option to purchase such coverage on an individual basis.

9 XI. "Serious health condition" means any illness covered by the federal family and medical
10 leave act including treatment for addiction as prescribed by a treating clinician, consistent with
11 American Society of Addiction Medicine criteria, as well as treatment for a mental health condition,
12 consistent with American Psychiatric Association criteria.

13 282-B:3 Employer and Employee Rights and Responsibilities.

14 I. Individuals who are employed by private employers with more than 50 employees who do
15 not offer either FMLI coverage under the granite state paid family leave plan under RSA 21-I:96 -
16 RSA 21-I:108 or an FMLI benefit that is at least equivalent to such coverage will have the
17 opportunity to purchase granite state paid family leave plan coverage through the individual pool.
18 The individual pool shall operate by payroll deduction for employees of employers with more than 50
19 employees whereby premiums are paid into an FMLI premium fund administered by the department
20 as provided in this chapter and established in coordination with the commissioner of administrative
21 services under RSA 21-I:96 through RSA 21-I:108.

22 II. Individuals employed by employers with more than 50 employees opting into the
23 individual pool shall be required to make their premium remittances by payroll deduction. All
24 private employers with more than 50 employees who have employees who have individually opted
25 into this pooled purchasing mechanism shall remit FMLI premium payments to the department in a
26 manner as directed by the commissioner.

27 III. Employers with fewer than 50 employees who wish to purchase FMLI coverage through
28 the granite state paid family leave plan shall have the opportunity to purchase such coverage by
29 making premium remittances into an FMLI premium fund administered by the department as
30 provided in this chapter and established in coordination with the commissioner of administrative
31 services acting pursuant to RSA 21-I:96.

32 282-B:4 FMLI Premium Fund Established. There is established the FMLI premium fund for
33 deposits of insurance premium payments paid pursuant to RSA 282-B:3 and for remittance of such
34 premiums to the FMLI carrier or carriers participating in the twin state voluntary leave plan. The
35 department shall develop standard enrollment procedures in coordination with participating carriers
36 and shall transmit enrollment and eligibility information to such carriers on a timely basis. The
37 department shall establish procedures and mechanisms for the billing and collection of premiums

1 from employers. The department shall specify in contracts with participating carriers how all
2 premiums shall be transmitted and the frequency of that transmission and how penalties and grace
3 periods on late payments of premiums shall be calculated. The department may contract with
4 qualified, independent vendors for the services necessary to carry out some or all of the duties under
5 this paragraph.

6 282-B:5 FMLI Premium Stabilization Trust Fund Established.

7 I. There is established the FMLI premium stabilization trust fund which shall be held and
8 accounted for separately from all other funds. Interest, dividends, and other earnings of the fund
9 shall be added to the fund. Deposits into the fund shall be limited exclusively to:

10 (a) Premium taxes imposed on premiums written by duly authorized insurance
11 companies for family and medical leave insurance written in connection with the administration of
12 RSA 21-I:96 through RSA 21-I:108 or RSA 282-B as provided in RSA 400-A:32, III(c); and

13 (b) Gifts, grants, and donations. The moneys in the fund shall not be subject to any
14 state taxes and shall not be subject to any federal taxes to the extent allowed by applicable federal
15 law.

16 II. The moneys in the fund shall constitute a premium stabilization reserve and shall be
17 used exclusively for the purpose of assuring that the premiums charged to participants in the
18 individual pool remain stable from year to year and do not exceed 5 dollars per subscriber per week.
19 The fund shall be administered by the commissioner, who shall be authorized to make such periodic
20 payments to participating FMLI carriers as are necessary to meet the purposes of this paragraph.
21 The department is authorized to contract with qualified, independent vendors for the services
22 necessary to carry out some or all of the duties under this paragraph.

23 282-B:6 Report and Outreach.

24 I. Working in coordination with the commissioner of administrative services as provided in
25 RSA 21-I:105, I the department shall produce, on an annual basis, a summary report on the granite
26 state paid family leave plan. The report shall be made public and delivered to the governor, the
27 senate president, and the speaker of the house of representatives. It shall include but not be limited
28 to, a description of progress in implementing the provisions of this chapter, payments into and out of
29 the fund, the number of employees in the state participating in the purchasing mechanism, and
30 recommendations for improvement of the program and for further increasing the rate at which New
31 Hampshire employees have FMLI coverage.

32 II. Working in coordination with the department of administrative services as provided in
33 RSA 21-I:105, II, the department shall develop and implement an outreach program to ensure that
34 individuals who may be eligible to receive FMLI benefits under this chapter or under RSA 21-I:96
35 through RSA 21-I:108 are made aware of these benefits. Outreach information shall explain in an
36 easy to understand format, eligibility requirements, benefit structures, and the process for accessing
37 coverage and enrolling.

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1 282-B:7 Rulemaking. The commissioner may adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, as deemed
2 necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

3 282-B:8 Appropriation and Funding Transfer. The state treasurer shall transfer funds from the
4 general fund to the department of employment security for payment of the administrative and
5 implementation costs associated with this chapter.

6 282-B:9 Implementation. The individual pool shall be operational and available for use by
7 individuals on a timetable that is sufficient to ensure that FMLI coverage shall be available for
8 purchase by January 1, 2022.

9 282-B:10 Application; Employers with Fewer than 50 Employees. No provision of this chapter
10 shall require employers with fewer than 50 employees to offer family medical leave or process payroll
11 deductions on behalf employees choosing to participate in the program as individuals.

12 359 New Section; Family Medical Leave Insurance; Discrimination in the Workplace. Amend
13 RSA 275 by inserting after section 37-c the following new section:

14 275:37-d Family and Medical Leave Insurance. If an employer has 50 or more employees and
15 sponsors family and medical leave insurance pursuant to RSA 21-I:96, then any employee of that
16 employer who takes family or medical leave and accesses wage replacement benefits under such
17 family and medical leave insurance coverage shall be restored to the position she or he held prior to
18 such leave or to an equivalent position by her or his employer consistent with the job restoration
19 provisions of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, Public Law 103-3, 29 U.S.C. section
20 2601 et seq. Such employers shall continue to provide health insurance to employees during the
21 leave. However, employees shall remain responsible for any employee-shared costs associated with
22 the health insurance benefits. Such employers shall not discriminate or retaliate against any
23 employee for accessing family or medical leave wage replacement benefits. Employers of employees
24 participating in the granite state paid family leave plan may require that paid leave taken under
25 this program be taken concurrently or otherwise coordinated with leave allowed under the terms of a
26 collective bargaining agreement or other established employer policy or the Family and Medical
27 Leave Act, as applicable.

28 360 New Subparagraphs; Application of Receipts. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after
29 subparagraph (364) the following new subparagraphs:

30 (365) Moneys deposited in the FMLI premium fund established in RSA 282-B:4.

31 (366) Moneys deposited in the FMLI premium stabilization trust fund established in

32 RSA 282-B:5.

33 361 New Section; Business Enterprise Tax; Granite State Paid Family Leave Plan Tax Credit.
34 Amend RSA 77-E by inserting after section 3-d the following new section:

35 77-E:3-e Granite State Paid Family Leave Plan Tax Credit. There shall be a tax credit allowed
36 against the tax due under this chapter in an amount equal to 50 percent of the premium paid by a

1 sponsoring employer for family and medical leave insurance coverage offered to employees pursuant
2 to RSA 21-I:100 for the taxable period in which the premium is paid.

3 362 Annual and Sick Leave; Executive Branch. Amend RSA 94:3-a to read as follows:

4 94:3-a Annual and Sick Leave for Unclassified Legislative Employees *and Executive Branch*
5 *Unclassified and Nonclassified Employees.*

6 I. Annual Leave. All full-time, nonelective unclassified legislative officials and employees
7 shall accumulate annual or biennial leave to the extent authorized for each position by the
8 appointing authority. If, at the time of his separation from service, such an official or employee has
9 credit for unutilized annual leave time, he shall be paid for such time at the same rate he was
10 receiving at the time of his separation.

11 II. Sick Leave. All full-time, nonelective unclassified legislative officials and employees,
12 shall accumulate sick leave credit to the extent authorized for each position by the appointing
13 authority. All unutilized sick leave credit shall lapse at the time of separation from service, except
14 that should such an official or employee die while in-service, his estate shall be paid for any
15 unutilized sick leave credit at the same rate the official or employee was receiving at the time of his
16 death.

17 III. Transfer of Credit; *Legislative.* Any official or employee who transfers without a break
18 in service, from the classified service to a full-time, nonelective, unclassified legislative position may
19 transfer all the days of sick leave credit and annual leave credit that he has accumulated in the
20 classified service. Any full-time, nonelective unclassified legislative official or employee who
21 transfers, without a break in service, to the classified service may transfer all the days of sick leave
22 credit and annual leave credit that he has accumulated in the unclassified service pursuant to this
23 section. The rate of accrual for all sick and annual leave shall be the same as the rate immediately
24 prior to the transfer.

25 *III-a. Transfer of Credit; Executive. Any official or employee who transfers without*
26 *a break in service, from the classified service to an unclassified or nonclassified executive*
27 *branch position shall retain all annual leave, sick leave, longevity pay, and bonus leave*
28 *already accumulated in the classified system. Such leave, longevity pay, and bonus time*
29 *shall not be paid out until the employee's cessation of employment and shall be carried*
30 *forward if the employee again transfers into the classified service.*

31 IV. The appointing authority may deny compensation to any legislative official or employee
32 for any annual leave time or sick leave time taken in excess of annual leave time or sick leave time
33 accumulated pursuant to this section.

34 363 Terminal Pay. RSA 94:9 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

35 94:9 Terminal Pay.

36 I. Any full-time state official or employee other than those in the state classified system who
37 retires, resigns, dies in office, or is terminated as a result of not being reappointed, shall receive

1 upon such cessation of employment 3 days' salary for each year of employment in nonclassified or
2 unclassified service.

3 II. Terminal Pay; Leave Time and Longevity Pay. Any full-time state official or employee
4 other than those in the state classified system who retires, resigns, dies in service, or is terminated
5 shall receive termination pay that includes any unused annual leave, bonus leave, or longevity pay
6 accumulated from their service as member of the classified system.

7 III. Terminal Pay; Sick Time. Any full-time state official or employee other than those in
8 the state classified system who retires shall receive termination pay that includes unused sick leave
9 accumulated while a member of the classified system. The calculation of such unclassified sick leave
10 payout shall be according to the calculations of sick leave upon termination of service of a
11 confidential classified employee as specified in the rules of the division of personnel.

12 IV. The governor is authorized to draw warrants for the sums necessary to make the
13 payments under this section, which shall be a charge against the general fund or such special fund
14 as may be appropriate.

15 364 New Paragraph; Administrative Services; Rulemaking; Executive Branch Employees.
16 Amend RSA 21-I:14 by inserting after paragraph XVII the following new paragraph:

- 17 XVIII. Employees serving in executive branch unclassified positions relating to:
- 18 (a) Annual Leave;
 - 19 (b) Sick Leave;
 - 20 (c) Transfers between positions within the executive branch and across branches of state
21 government; and
 - 22 (d) Termination and payouts upon termination of employment.

23 365 Report; Executive Branch Employees. The commissioner of the department of
24 administrative services shall report to the fiscal committee of the general court on the progress of
25 the adoption of administrative rules under RSA 21-I:14, XVIII, relating to employees serving in
26 executive branch unclassified positions, not later than April 30, 2022.

27 366 Abolished Positions. All classified full-time positions which were vacant prior to July 1,
28 2018 and remain vacant as of July 1, 2021 shall be abolished on September 30, 2021. Executive
29 branch agencies, as defined in RSA 9:1, shall identify such positions using the last vacancy report
30 from the state human resources system produced before June 30, 2021. Positions on such report
31 that have been filled as of July 1, 2021, or for which an offer has been extended and accepted, shall
32 not be abolished. Each executive agency shall prepare a list of positions to be abolished for
33 submission to the department of administrative services on or before September 1, 2021. For each
34 position the list shall include the amounts appropriated by fiscal year for salary and benefits and the
35 source of funds for such appropriations. The department of administrative services shall transfer
36 the unexpended general fund appropriations for the abolished positions to the salary adjustment
37 fund in RSA 99:4 and the benefit adjustment account in RSA 9:17-c. The department of

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1 administrative services shall submit a report of the abolished positions and transferred
2 appropriations to the legislative fiscal committee by December 31, 2021. Individual exceptions to
3 these provisions may be requested by any department in writing to the governor, and any such
4 exception granted by the governor shall be transmitted to the fiscal committee of the general court.
5 This section shall not apply to any positions at the department of health and human services which
6 the department intends to use toward meeting required budget reductions.

7 367 Appropriation: Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food; Cost of Care Fund. The sum
8 of \$100,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 is hereby appropriated to the department of
9 agriculture, markets, and food to fund the cost of care fund established in RSA 437-B:1. The
10 governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not
11 otherwise appropriated.

12 368 Effective Date. Section 367 of this shall take effect on June 30, 2021.

13 369 Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food; Disease Data Manager; Position
14 Established; Appropriation.

15 I. There is hereby established with the department of agriculture, markets, and food, a Word
16 Processor I position. Such position shall enter and compile test data needed to demonstrate to the
17 USDA that the state is performing adequate testing in order to maintain its status as a TB and
18 Brucellosis-free state.

19 II. The sum of \$53,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and the sum of \$58,000 for
20 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, are hereby appropriated to the department of agriculture,
21 markets, and food for the purpose of funding the position in paragraph I. The governor is authorized
22 to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

23 370 Department of Justice; Positions Established and Reclassified.

24 I. Position Reclassification; Department of Justice. The position of attorney II, position
25 #14956, transferred to the department of justice in fiscal year 2021 from the department of health
26 and human services accounting unit 05-95-95-952010-5680 to the department of justice accounting
27 unit 02-20-20-201010-2620 and fully funded by the department of health and human services, shall
28 be designated as an unclassified position.

29 II. There is established within the department of justice the unclassified position of
30 assistant attorney general. The salary for the position shall be set forth in RSA 94:1-c.

31 III. Upon reclassification of the position and appointment of the assistant attorney general,
32 position #14956 shall be abolished to allow for the transition of its available appropriations into the
33 unclassified position of assistant attorney general. Funding shall be transferred into the proper
34 unclassified expenditure class for the civil law accounting unit. The incumbent in the abolished
35 position shall be offered the opportunity to seek the attorney general's nomination for the
36 unclassified position of assistant attorney general.

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1 371 National Guard Enlistment Incentive Program. The subdivision heading before RSA 160-
2 B:60 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

3 National Guard Enlistment Incentive Program

4 372 National Guard Enlistment Incentive Program. RSA 110-B:60-62 are repealed and
5 reenacted to read as follows:

6 110-B:60 New Hampshire National Guard Enlistment Incentive Program Established. For the
7 purpose of encouraging enlistment in the national guard there is hereby established a New
8 Hampshire national guard enlistment incentive program. This program authorizes a cash incentive
9 up to \$500 to current members of the New Hampshire national guard in the pay grades of E-1 to O-3
10 or any former member of the New Hampshire national guard for each new or prior service recruit
11 that they bring into the New Hampshire national guard.

12 110-B:61 Revenue for Enlistment Incentive Program.

13 I. There is hereby established a fund to be known as national guard enlistment incentive
14 program fund. Any appropriations received shall be deposited in the fund. Moneys in the fund and
15 any interest earned on the fund shall be used for the purpose of encouraging enlistment in the
16 national guard and shall not be used for any other purpose. The adjutant general shall oversee
17 expenditures from the fund. The moneys in the fund shall be nonlapsing.

18 II. In addition to any moneys appropriated, the New Hampshire national guard enlistment
19 incentive program fund may consist of an annual appropriation, as determined by the general court,
20 to be awarded in accordance with written policies promulgated by the adjutant general under RSA
21 110-B:62.

22 110-B:62 Oversight and Administration. The adjutant general shall adopt rules pursuant to
23 RSA 541-A relative to the administration of the enlistment incentive program and relative to its
24 execution by the New Hampshire Army and Air National Guard recruiting offices in coordination
25 with the department of military affairs and veterans services.

26 373 New Subparagraph; National Guard Enlistment Incentive Program Fund. Amend RSA
27 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (364) the following new subparagraph:

28 (365) Moneys deposited in the national guard enlistment incentive program fund
29 established in RSA 110-B:61.

30 374 Reference to National Guard Scholarship Fund Removed. Amend RSA 110-B:55, I to read
31 as follows:

32 I. Fines may be paid to a military court or to an officer executing its process. The amount of
33 any fine imposed may be noted upon any state roll or account for pay of the delinquent and deducted
34 from any pay or allowance due or thereafter to become due them, until said fine is liquidated; or the
35 same may be collected with lawful costs of collection, as in the case of executions issued in action
36 founded upon torts. ~~[Fines shall be paid over to the state treasurer and credited to the New~~
37 ~~Hampshire national guard recruitment and retention scholarship fund under RSA 110-B:60.]~~

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1 375 Reference to National Guard Scholarship Fund Removed. Amend RSA 110-B:29 to read as
2 follows:

3 110-B:29 Use of Armories or Other National Guard Facilities.

4 ~~[I.] All New Hampshire national guard facilities shall be primarily for the military duty,~~
5 ~~instruction, and training of the national and state guard and for the storage and maintenance of~~
6 ~~military property. Other use of national guard facilities may be authorized by the adjutant general~~
7 ~~and shall be governed by rules and regulations promulgated under this section.~~

8 ~~[H. Rental fees for the use of national guard facilities shall be fixed by the adjutant general~~
9 ~~and shall be declared as revenue and paid to the adjutant general subject to the provisions of RSA~~
10 ~~110-B:61.]~~

11 376 Repeal. RSA 110-B:63, relative to the national guard scholarship program, is repealed.

12 377 Appropriation: Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services; National Guard
13 Enlistment Incentive Fund. The sum of \$25,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 is hereby
14 appropriated to the department of military affairs and veterans services to fund the national guard
15 enlistment incentive fund established in RSA 110-B:61. Such appropriation shall be nonlapsing.
16 The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not
17 otherwise appropriated.

18 378 Effective Date. Section 377 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

19 379 Insurance Department; Positions Established.

20 I. There is established within the insurance department the unclassified position of director
21 of life and health. The director of life and health shall be qualified to hold that position by reason of
22 education and experience and shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as the
23 commissioner may authorize.

24 II. The salary of the director of life and health shall be determined after assessment and
25 review of the appropriate temporary letter grade allocation in RSA 94:1-a, I(b) for the position which
26 shall be conducted pursuant to RSA 94:1-d and RSA 14:14-c. Upon completion of this action and
27 appointment of the director of life and health, position #16733 shall be abolished to allow for the
28 transition of this classified position within its available appropriations into the unclassified position
29 of director of life and health. Funding shall be transferred into a new expenditure class 011, within
30 accounting unit 02-24-24-240010-2520. The incumbent in the abolished position shall be offered the
31 position of director of life and health.

32 III. There is established within the insurance department the position of director of property
33 and casualty. The director of property and casualty shall be qualified to hold that position by reason
34 of education and experience and shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as the
35 commissioner may authorize.

36 IV. The salary of the director of property and casualty shall be determined after assessment
37 and review of the appropriate temporary letter grade allocation in RSA 94:1-a, I(b) for the position

1 which shall be conducted pursuant to RSA 94:1-d and RSA 14:14-c. Upon completion of this action
2 and appointment of the director of property and casualty, position #19998 shall be abolished to allow
3 for the transition of this classified position with its available appropriations into the unclassified
4 position of director of property and casualty. Funding shall be transferred into a new expenditure
5 class 011, within accounting unit 02-24-24-240010-2520. The incumbent in the abolished position
6 shall be offered the position of director of property and casualty.

7 380 Insurance Department; Department Positions. Amend RSA 400-A:6, VII to read as follows:

8 VII. The commissioner shall appoint, as the commissioner's assistants, a director of financial
9 regulation, **a director of life and health**, a director of health economics, a director of health care
10 analytics, a general counsel, an insurance fraud director, a senior insurance fraud investigator, **a**
11 **director of property and casualty**, a property and casualty actuary, a chief property and casualty
12 actuary, a workers' compensation analyst, a chief life, accident and health actuary, a compliance and
13 enforcement counsel, a chief financial examiner, a communications director, and a health reform
14 coordinator, each of whom shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner. The director of financial
15 regulation, **director of life and health**, director of health economics, director of health care
16 analytics, general counsel, insurance fraud director, senior insurance fraud investigator, **director of**
17 **property and casualty**, property and casualty actuary, chief property and casualty actuary,
18 workers' compensation analyst, chief life, accident and health actuary, compliance and enforcement
19 counsel, chief financial examiner, communications director, and health reform coordinator, shall
20 perform such duties and exercise such powers as the commissioner may authorize.

21 381 Appropriation; Business Finance Authority; Grants to Regional Economic Development
22 Corporations. The sum of \$200,000 is hereby appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022,
23 and the sum of \$200,000 is hereby appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 to the
24 business finance authority for the purpose of providing equal grants to regional economic
25 development corporations in furtherance of the objectives set forth in RSA 162-A:1. The governor is
26 authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise
27 appropriated. Funds appropriated to the authority under this section shall be excluded from the
28 repayment provisions of RSA 162-A:30.

29 382 Appropriation; Affordable Housing Fund. The sum of \$25,000,000 for the fiscal year ending
30 June 30, 2021, is hereby appropriated to the housing finance authority for deposit in the affordable
31 housing fund established in RSA 204-C:57, for the purpose of providing financing or state matching
32 funds for affordable housing. The appropriation shall be in addition to any other funds appropriated
33 to the housing finance authority. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of
34 any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

35 383 Effective Date. Section 382 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

36 384 Department of Natural and Cultural Affairs; Bureau of Trails; Grant in Aid.

1 I. For the biennium ending June 30, 2023 and notwithstanding any provision of law or
2 administrative rule to the contrary, the limitations on percentages of grant-in-aid administered by
3 the bureau of trails, division of parks and recreation, for the development and maintenance of OHRV
4 trails on private, state, federal, or municipal lands for the grant period of June 1, 2021 to May 31,
5 2022 shall be as follows:

- 6 (a) 90 percent of the cost of renting equipment required to complete a project.
7 (b) 90 percent of the cost of purchasing trail grooming equipment.
8 (c) 90 percent of the cost of reconditioning trail grooming equipment.
9 (d) 90 percent of the cost of operations for summer trail grading.

10 II. Except as expressly provided above, all other administrative rules regarding the
11 administration of this grant in aid program remain in full force and effect.

12 385 Appropriation; Hampton Beach Area Commission. The sum of \$20,000 for the fiscal year
13 ending June 30, 2021 is hereby appropriated to the Hampton Beach area commission to be credited
14 to the Hampton Beach master plan fund under RSA 216-J:5 for the purpose of updating the
15 environmental components of the master plan. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for
16 said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

17 386 Effective Date. Section 385 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

18 387 Substance Abuse Enforcement Program; Appropriations.

19 I. The sum of \$587,700 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 is hereby appropriated to the
20 department of safety. This sum shall be expended as follows:

21 (a) \$171,600 shall be expended for the purpose of funding overtime at the state forensic
22 laboratory as a result of increased caseloads attributable to narcotics related enforcement and
23 investigations, with no more than 50 percent of the appropriation expended in each fiscal year of the
24 biennium ending June 30, 2023.

25 (b) \$416,100 shall be expended for the purpose of funding overtime at the state police for
26 narcotics related enforcement and investigations, with no more than 50 percent of the appropriation
27 expended in each fiscal year of the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

28 II. The sum of \$2,400,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 is hereby appropriated to
29 the department of safety to disburse grants to county and local law enforcement agencies for the
30 purpose of funding overtime costs for county and local law enforcement officers performing law
31 enforcement activities attributable to the substance abuse enforcement program established in RSA
32 21-P:66. No more than 50 percent of the appropriation shall be expended in each fiscal year of the
33 biennium ending June 30, 2023.

34 III. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the
35 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

36 IV. No appropriation made in this section shall lapse until June 30, 2023.

37 388 Effective Date. Section 387 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

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1 389 Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services Fund; Appropriation. There
2 is hereby appropriated to the fire standards and training and emergency medical services fund
3 established under RSA 21-P:12-d, the sums of \$300,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 and
4 \$300,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for
5 said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

6 390 Department of Safety; Appropriation. There is hereby appropriated to the department of
7 safety, division of fire standards and training and emergency medical services, the sums of \$200,000
8 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 and \$200,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. Such
9 sums shall be used for the purpose of funding additional part-time instruction or increasing the
10 tuition discount provided to New Hampshire emergency service personnel for certain programs
11 through administrative rulemaking. Such appropriations shall be a charge against the fire
12 standards and training and emergency medical services fund established pursuant to RSA 21-P:12-d.

13 391 General Fund Transfer to Highway Fund. The sum of \$50,000,000 for the fiscal year ending
14 June 30, 2022, is hereby appropriated to the highway fund. This appropriation shall not lapse. The
15 governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not
16 otherwise appropriated.

17 392 Appropriation; Department of Transportation. There is hereby appropriated to the
18 department of transportation the sum of \$7,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, for the
19 purpose of the Conway Bypass right-of-way payback to the federal highway administration,
20 understanding the department will continue to negotiate with the federal highway administration on
21 a specific payback plan. This appropriation shall not lapse. The governor is authorized to draw a
22 warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

23 393 Effective Date. Section 392 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

24 394 Department of Transportation; Removal of Toll Booths. Notwithstanding any provision of
25 law to the contrary, the commissioner of the department of transportation shall remove the
26 northbound and southbound toll booths on exit 10 on the F.E. Everett turnpike in the town of
27 Merrimack.

28 395 Department of Transportation; Town of Tilton; Appropriation.

29 I. The project named Tilton, project number 29753, to reconstruct and re-classify 1.97 miles
30 of Calef Hill Road shall be added to the 10-year transportation improvement plan with engineering
31 totaling \$350,000 in fiscal year 2022 and construction totaling \$2,900,000 for the biennium ending
32 June 30, 2023.

33 II. There is hereby appropriated \$3,250,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, to the
34 department of transportation for funding the project identified in paragraph I. The governor is
35 authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise
36 appropriated. Amounts appropriated under this section shall not lapse.

1 396 Appropriation; Department of Transportation. There is hereby appropriated to the
2 department of transportation the sum of \$5,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 for the
3 purpose of leveraging federal discretionary grants on transportation projects with required state
4 cash match. Such appropriation shall not lapse. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for
5 said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

6 397 Appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services for Child Welfare
7 Behavioral Health Services. Lapse Extension. Amend 2019, 346:347 to read as follows:

8 346:347 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services; Child Welfare Behavioral
9 Health Services. The sum of \$6,084,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and the sum of
10 \$13,164,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, are hereby appropriated to the department of
11 health and human services for the purposes of sections 330-346 of this act. ***The \$13,164,000***
12 ***appropriation for fiscal year 2021 shall not lapse until June 30, 2022.*** Notwithstanding RSA
13 14:30-a, VI, the department may accept and expend any federal fund match to the appropriation in
14 this section without prior approval of this fiscal committee of the general court. The governor is
15 authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise
16 appropriated.

17 398 Effective Date. Section 397 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

18 399 Annual Report on State Mental Health Plan, Child Welfare Component. Amend RSA 126-
19 A:5, XXXIII to read as follows:

20 XXXIII.(a) On or before September 1, 2019, the commissioner shall submit a report on the
21 New Hampshire 10-year mental health plan of 2018 containing the priorities for implementation of
22 the plan to the oversight committee on health and human services, established under RSA 126-A:13,
23 the chairpersons of the house and senate policy committees with jurisdiction over health and human
24 services matters, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, [and] the
25 governor, ***and the office of the child advocate established in RSA 21-V.*** The commissioner
26 shall submit a report on or before September 1, 2020 and annually thereafter on the status of the
27 implementation of the 10-year mental health plan including, but not limited to, unmet benchmarks
28 and recommendations for any necessary barrier resolution or necessary adjustments or modifications
29 to the plan to better serve New Hampshire citizens, to the oversight committee on health and human
30 services and the chairpersons of the house and senate policy committees with jurisdiction over
31 health and human services matters. The annual report shall include any recommendations by the
32 commissioner for legislation as needed or appropriate in achieving important benchmarks in fully
33 implementing the 10-year mental health plan.

34 ***(b) As part of the annual report required by this paragraph, the commissioner***
35 ***of the department of health and human services, in conjunction with the commissioner of***
36 ***the department of education, shall issue a joint report on the implementation of 2019, 44***
37 ***(SB 14), relative to child welfare. This portion of the report shall address in detail the***

1 *implementation status of each section of 2019, 44 (SB 14) and include all information*
2 *related to progress toward full implementation of a system of care under RSA 135-F. The*
3 *report shall also address the following:*

4 *(1) The total cost of children's behavioral health services.*

5 *(2) The identification of barriers and service gaps in the array of children's*
6 *behavioral health services, along with a description of efforts and plans to fill those gaps.*

7 *(3) The availability of mobile crisis and stabilization services in each part of*
8 *the state and plans to fill any gaps.*

9 *(4) Changes to statutes, administrative rules, policies, practices, and*
10 *managed care and provider contracts which will be necessary to fully implement the*
11 *system of care.*

12 *(5) Shortfalls in workforce sufficiency affecting full implementation of the*
13 *system of care as well as efforts and plans for addressing those shortfalls.*

14 *(6) Numbers of children and youth awaiting services in various categories.*

15 *(7) Plans to coordinate the system of care with existing efforts addressing*
16 *early childhood interventions, primary prevention, and primary care integration.*

17 *(8) Plans to develop and/or coordinate a cross-system assessment tool and*
18 *data collection system to measure outcomes, including but not limited to status upon exit*
19 *from the system of care, measured treatment results, recidivism, and other returns to the*
20 *service system.*

21 400 Repeal. RSA 135-F:6, relative to reporting requirements on the system of care for children's
22 mental health, is repealed.

23 401 System of Care for Children's Mental Health; Duties of the Commissioner of Health and
24 Human Services; Reference Change. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 135-F:4, II to read
25 as follows:

26 II. Develop a plan for full establishment and maintenance of a system of care. Such plan
27 shall be reviewed and amended annually. It shall include sufficient detail to allow compliance with
28 the reporting requirements of RSA ~~[135-F:6]~~ 126-A:5, XXXIII, and shall address at least the
29 following elements:

30 402 System of Care for Children's Mental Health; Duties of the Commissioner of the
31 Department of Education; Reference Change. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 135-F:5, II
32 to read as follows:

33 II. Develop a plan for full support and participation of the department of education in the
34 establishment and maintenance of a system of care. Such plan shall be reviewed and amended
35 annually. It shall include sufficient detail to allow compliance with the reporting requirements of
36 RSA ~~[135-F:6]~~ 126-A:5, XXXIII, and shall address at least the following elements:

1 403 Department of Health and Human Services; Contracts and Procurement Unit; Positions
2 Established. There are hereby established within the department of health and human services for
3 the biennium ending June 30, 2023, 8 full-time, classified positions in the office of business
4 operations, contracts and procurement unit.

5 404 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services; Contracts and Procurement
6 Unit. The sum of \$644,260 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and the sum of \$810,607 for the
7 fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, are hereby appropriated to the department of health and human
8 services for the purpose of funding positions in the office of business operations, contracts and
9 procurement unit. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in
10 the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

11 405 Duties of the Department of Health and Human Services; Administration of State Food
12 Stamp Program; Reference to SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Added. Amend
13 RSA 161:2, XIII to read as follows:

14 XIII. Food Stamp Program. Develop and administer a food-stamp program within the state,
15 *also known as SNAP, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program*, under the
16 provisions of the Federal Food Stamp Act of 1964, as amended, and in accordance with Federal
17 Regulations duly promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture and the United
18 States Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

19 *XIII-a. SNAP Incentive Programs. Implement SNAP incentive programs enabling*
20 *beneficiaries of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to receive a dollar-*
21 *for-dollar match for fresh fruits and vegetables, with an emphasis on locally grown, at*
22 *participating farmer's markets, farm stands, mobile markets, community supported*
23 *agriculture sites, grocery stores, or other participating direct food retailers.*

24 406 New Paragraph; Department of Health and Human Services; Rulemaking. Amend RSA
25 161:4-a by inserting after paragraph XI the following new paragraph:

26 XI-a. The implementation of SNAP incentive programs under RSA 161:2, XIII-a.

27 407 Department of Health and Human Services; Appropriation. The sum of \$150,000 for the
28 biennium ending June 30, 2023 is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human
29 services for the SNAP incentive programs under RSA 161:2, XIII-a. The governor is authorized to
30 draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

31 408 Prospective Repeal Regarding Eligibility for Services Extended. Amend 2011, 209:6, I, as
32 amended by 2013, 140:1, I, as amended by 2015, 276:41, I, as amended by 2017, 156:85, I, as
33 amended by 2019, 346:61, I, to read as follows:

34 I. Section 5 of this act shall take effect July 1, ~~2021~~ 2023.

35 409 New Paragraph; Rulemaking; Exception Added; Cost-of-living Adjustment. Amend RSA
36 541-A:21 by inserting after paragraph III-a the following new paragraph:

1 III-b. Rules adopted relative to the cost of living adjustment in social security benefits
2 contained within the Social Services Block Grant program shall be exempt from the provisions of
3 RSA 541-A:5 through RSA 541-A:14, provided that recipients receive proper notice that the income
4 level has been adjusted.

5 410 Eligibility for Home and Community-Based Services; Suspension. RSA 151-E:18, regarding
6 presumptive eligibility for home and community-based services, shall be suspended for the biennium
7 ending June 30, 2023.

8 411 Social Security Act Waiver Programs; Committee Established.

9 I. There is established a committee to study achieving parity in reimbursement among
10 organizations that provide Social Security Act Section 1915(c) waiver programs. The members of the
11 committee shall be as follows:

12 (a) Two members of the senate finance committee, one of whom shall be from the
13 majority party and one of whom shall be from the minority party, appointed by the president of the
14 senate.

15 (b) Two members of the house of representatives finance committee, one of whom shall
16 from the majority party and one of whom shall be from the minority party, appointed by the speaker
17 of the house of representatives.

18 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to
19 the duties of the committee.

20 III.(a) The committee shall examine the issue of achieving parity in reimbursement among
21 organizations that provide services under Social Security Act Section 1915(c) waiver programs and
22 the potential solutions and impact of such reimbursement parity on the state and its counties, the
23 contracting organizations, and clients.

24 (b) The study shall include a comparison between all Social Security Act Section 1915(c)
25 waiver reimbursements, including reimbursement for providers in the following program areas:
26 choices for independence, developmental services, in-home support, and acquired brain disorder
27 services.

28 IV. The committee shall meet in duly noticed public meetings, take testimony when the
29 committee determines it is appropriate, and may accept and solicit information from any person or
30 entity the committee deems relevant to its study.

31 V. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members.
32 The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named senate member. The first
33 meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Three
34 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

35 VI. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
36 legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate
37 clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 15, 2022.

1 412 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services; Transitional Housing Beds.
2 There is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services the sum of \$6,000,000
3 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, which shall be nonlapsing until June 30, 2023, for the
4 purposes of increasing rates paid for transitional housing beds and for funding new transitional
5 housing beds for forensic patients and/or patients with complex behavioral health conditions
6 including those transitioning from the New Hampshire hospital. In addition, any unspent funds
7 from the appropriation made under 2019, 346:221 may be used for the purposes of this section. The
8 governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not
9 otherwise appropriated.

10 413 Effective Date. Section 412 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

11 414 Health and Human Services; State Loan Repayment Program. Of the funds appropriated to
12 account 05-95-90-901010-7965, Rural Health & Primary Care, class 103 for the biennium ending
13 June 30, 2021, \$1,533,566 shall not lapse until June 30, 2023 and shall be treated as restricted
14 revenue for the purpose of funding the state loan repayment program. The department of health
15 and human services is authorized to accept and expend any matching federal funds for the purposes
16 of this section without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court.

17 415 Effective Date. Section 414 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

18 416 Department of Health and Human Services; Division of Medicaid Services. Any funds
19 appropriated to activity 05-95-47-470010, division of medicaid services, for the biennium ending
20 June 30, 2021 shall not lapse until June 30, 2023, and shall be treated as restricted revenue for the
21 purpose of funding expenditures in account 05-95-47-470010-7948, medicaid care management. The
22 department of health and human services is authorized to accept and expend any matching federal
23 funds for the purposes of this section without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general
24 court.

25 417 Effective Date. Section 416 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

26 418 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services. There is hereby appropriated to
27 the department of health and human services the sum of \$30,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June
28 30, 2021 for the purpose of constructing a 24-bed forensic psychiatric hospital. The sum
29 appropriated shall be nonlapsing, provided that any unexpended amount following construction shall
30 lapse to the general fund. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any
31 money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

32 419 Effective Date. Section 418 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

33 420 Waiver/Nursing Facility Payments.

34 I. Notwithstanding RSA 167:18-a or any other provision of law to the contrary, any funds
35 appropriated to activity 05-95-48-482010, waiver and nursing facilities, for the biennium ending
36 June 30, 2021 shall not lapse until June 30, 2023, and shall be treated as restricted revenue for the
37 purpose of funding expenditures contained in the operating budget for the fiscal year ending June

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1 30, 2022 in account 05-95-48-482010-2152, waiver/nursing facility payments – county participation.
2 The department of health and human services is authorized to accept and expend any matching
3 federal funds for the purposes of this section without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the
4 general court.

5 421 Effective Date. Section 420 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

6 422 Home Visiting Program. Amend RSA 167:68-a to read as follows:

7 167:68-a Home Visiting Programs. Home visiting programs for children and their families
8 established pursuant to this subdivision shall be made available to all Medicaid eligible [~~children~~
9 ~~and~~] pregnant women, *infants, and families with children up to age one*, without restriction.
10 The commissioner shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to administering this section.

11 423 Rulemaking; Home Visiting Program. Amend RSA 167:3-c, XV to read as follows:

12 XV. Procedures for making the home visiting program available to all Medicaid eligible
13 [~~children and~~] pregnant women, *infants, and families with children up to age one* pursuant to
14 RSA 167:68, II(e).

15 424 Graduate Medical Education Payments Suspended. The commissioner of the department of
16 health and human services shall submit a Title XIX Medicaid state plan amendment to the federal
17 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to suspend the provision of direct and indirect graduate
18 medical education payments to hospitals as provided in 42 C.F.R. section 413.75 for the biennium
19 ending June 30, 2023. Upon approval of the state plan amendment, and as of the effective date of
20 the state plan amendment, any obligations for payment of direct and indirect graduate medical
21 education shall be suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

22 425 Department of Health and Human Services; Juvenile Diversion; Supplemental
23 Appropriation. The sum of \$300,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and the sum of
24 \$300,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 are hereby appropriated to the department of
25 health and human services for the purpose of extending existing grants to the certified juvenile
26 diversion providers who provide diversion services pursuant to RSA 169-B:10. Any unexpended
27 funds remaining from the appropriation made in 2019, 346:371 shall not lapse and may be used for
28 the purposes of this section. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any
29 money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

30 426 New Paragraph; Delinquent Children; Juvenile Diversion. Amend RSA 169-B:10 by
31 inserting after paragraph II-a the following new paragraph:

32 II-b. Consistent with the referral procedures established pursuant to paragraph II-a, the
33 department of health and human services, division for children, youth and families, shall have the
34 authority establish procedures for the state-funded diversion programs.

35 427 Statement of Purpose. To improve overall health, promote savings in the state's Medicaid
36 managed care program, and prevent future health conditions caused by oral health problems, and
37 based on the recommendation of the working group convened pursuant to 2019, 346:225, the general

1 court hereby determines that it is in the best interest of the state of New Hampshire to extend
2 dental benefits under the Medicaid managed care program to individuals 21 years of age and over.

3 428 New Paragraph; Medicaid Managed Care Program; Dental Benefits. Amend RSA 126-A:5
4 by inserting after paragraph XIX the following new paragraph:

5 XIX-a.(a)(1) The commissioner shall pursue contracting options to administer the state's
6 Medicaid dental program with the goals of improving access to dental care for Medicaid populations,
7 improving health outcomes for Medicaid enrollees, expanding the provider network, increasing
8 provider capacity, and retaining innovative programs that improve access and care through a value-
9 based care model.

10 (2) The commissioner shall issue a request for information to assist in selecting the
11 administrative model for the state's Medicaid dental program. Such model shall be either a model
12 administered by a dental managed care organization or a model administered by the state's current
13 medical managed care organizations. The commissioner shall obtain the requested information from
14 both the current medical managed care organizations and any interested dental managed care
15 organization. The administrative model selected shall demonstrate the greatest ability to satisfy the
16 state's need for value, quality, efficiency, innovation, and savings. The request for information shall
17 be released no later than November 1, 2021. The request for information shall address improving
18 health outcomes, expanding the provider network, increasing capacity of providers, integrating a
19 value-based care model, and exploring innovative programs for children and adults.

20 (3) If the model administered by a dental managed care organization is selected, the
21 commissioner shall issue a 2-year request for proposals, with 2 optional one-year extensions, to enter
22 into contracts with the vendor that demonstrates the greatest ability to satisfy the state's need for
23 value, quality, efficiency, innovation, and savings. The state plan amendment shall be submitted to
24 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) within the quarter of the program effective
25 date. Implementation of a procured contract shall begin January 1, 2023 for the adult benefit. The
26 department, in consultation with oral health stakeholders, will determine the value of
27 implementation of the pediatric dental benefit in a value-based benefit plan. Implementation of the
28 pediatric benefit will occur on a date that follows the successful implementation of the adult dental
29 benefit. The commissioner shall establish a capitated rate for the appropriate model for the contract
30 that is full risk to the vendor. In contracting for a dental managed care model and the various rate
31 cells, the department shall ensure no reduction in the quality of care of services provided to enrollees
32 in the managed care model and shall exercise all due diligence to maintain or increase the quality of
33 care provided. The department shall seek, with the review of the fiscal committee of the general
34 court, all necessary and appropriate state plan amendments and waivers to implement the
35 provisions of this paragraph. The program shall not commence operation until such state plan
36 amendments or waivers have been approved by CMS. All necessary state plan amendments and
37 waivers shall be submitted within the quarter of the program effective date.

1 (4) The commissioner shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, if necessary, to
2 implement the provisions of this paragraph.

3 (b) Any vendor awarded a contract pursuant to this paragraph shall provide the
4 required dental services to children with an implementation date to be determined by the
5 department after the successful implementation of the adult benefit and the following dental
6 services to individuals 21 years of age and over, reimbursed under the United States Social Security
7 Act, Title XIX, or successors to it:

8 (1) Preventive dental services including examinations, necessary x-rays or other
9 imaging, prophylaxis, topical fluoride, oral hygiene instruction, behavior management and smoking
10 cessation counseling, and other services as determined by the commissioner.

11 (2) Restorative treatment to restore tooth form and function.

12 (3) Periodontal treatment and oral and maxillofacial surgery to relieve pain,
13 eliminate infection, or prevent imminent tooth loss.

14 (4) Removable prosthodontics to replace missing teeth subject to medical necessity.

15 (c) In this paragraph, "dental managed care organization" means any dental care
16 organization, dental service organization, health insurer, or other entity licensed under Title
17 XXXVII, that provides, directly or by contract, dental care services covered under this paragraph
18 rendered by licensed providers and that meets the requirements of Title XIX or Title XI of the
19 federal Social Security Act.

20 429 Dental Benefit; Appropriation. The sum of \$1,460,000 is hereby appropriated to the
21 department of health and human services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 for the purposes of
22 implementing the dental benefit described in section 428 of this act. The governor is authorized to
23 draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. The
24 department is authorized to accept and expend matching federal funds for the purposes of this
25 program without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court.

26 430 Home Visiting Programs; Limitation. The home visiting programs available to all Medicaid
27 eligible children and pregnant women as required by RSA 167:68-a, shall be subject and limited to
28 available appropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

29 431 Department of Health and Human Services; Income Eligibility for "In and Out Medical
30 Assistance;" Suspension. Chapter 39:1 Laws of 2020 requiring the department of health and human
31 services to amend the income standard used for eligibility for the "in and out medical assistance"
32 policy, shall be suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

33 432 Medicaid to Schools Program; Fiscal Committee Approval of Supplemental Funding. For
34 the biennium ending June 30, 2023, in the event funds appropriated in accounting unit 05-95-47-
35 0010-7207 Medicaid to schools are insufficient, the department of health and human services may
36 accept and expend additional federal funds with the prior approval of the fiscal committee of the
37 general court. Any request to the fiscal committee shall include a detailed explanation of the types

1 of assistance the department is providing to school districts to ensure eligibility for reimbursement
2 under the Medicaid to schools program.

3 433 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services; Grants to Support Senior
4 Centers; Supports for Mental Health and Social Isolation. There is hereby appropriated to the
5 department of health and human services the sum of \$1,500,000, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
6 2021, for the purpose of providing grants to senior centers or other organizations serving senior
7 citizens for purposes of supporting services to combat struggles with mental health and social
8 isolation. This appropriation shall not lapse until June 30, 2023. The governor is authorized to
9 draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

10 434 Effective Date. Section 433 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

11 435 New Hampshire Veterans' Home; Appropriation. The sum of \$80,000 for the fiscal year
12 ending June 30, 2021 is hereby appropriated to the veterans' home for the purpose of funding the
13 veterans' home master plan update. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out
14 of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated and the appropriation shall not lapse until
15 June 30, 2023.

16 436 Effective Date. Section 435 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

17 437 Appropriation; Lottery Commission. There is hereby appropriated to the lottery commission
18 the sum of \$2,715,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 for the purpose of paying the total
19 principal balance on the commercial mortgage on its headquarters building. The governor is
20 authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise
21 appropriated. Any unexpended amount of the appropriation shall lapse to the general fund on June
22 30, 2022.

23 438 Effective Date. Section 437 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

24 439 Keno License; Fee. Amend RSA 284:44, I to read as follows:

25 I. The license fee for a commercial premises keno license issued under RSA 284:46 shall be
26 ~~[\$500]~~ \$100 per year. Such fee shall be submitted to the lottery commission at the time the
27 application is made and shall be refunded if the application is denied.

28 440 Pari-Mutuel Pools on Historic Horse Races; Date Change to May 1, 2021. Amend RSA
29 284:22-b, II to read as follows:

30 II. In order to be eligible for a license to sell pari-mutuel pools on historic races, an applicant
31 shall have been game operator employer licensed under RSA 287-D as of May 1, ~~[2020]~~ 2021 and
32 still licensed as of the effective date of this section, provided such sales are within the enclosure of a
33 facility at which the licensee holds its licensed activities under RSA 287-D, and that such facility is
34 located within the city or town in which the licensee held its license on May 1, ~~[2020]~~ 2021. An
35 application that is approved by the lottery commission, and a license that is granted shall not be
36 permitted to be transferred or sold.

1 441 Applicability. Section 440 of this act shall take effect one minute after the effective date of
2 HB626-FN of the 2021 regular legislative session. If HB626-FN does not become law, section 440 of
3 this act shall not take effect.

4 442 Effective Date.

5 I. Section 440 of this act shall take effect as provided in section 441 of this act.

6 II. Section 441 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

7 443 Governor's Scholarship Fund; Appropriation. The sum of \$6,000,000 for the fiscal year
8 ending June 30, 2021 is hereby appropriated to the governor's scholarship fund established under
9 RSA 195-H:12. Such funds shall not lapse. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said
10 sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

11 444 Effective Date. Section 443 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2021.

12 445 New Chapter; Education Freedom Accounts. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 194-D
13 the following new chapter:

14 CHAPTER 194-E

15 EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNTS

16 194-E:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

17 I. "Adequate education grant" means the grant calculated under RSA 198:41.

18 II. "Curriculum" means the lessons and academic content taught in a specific course,
19 program, or grade level.

20 III. "Department" means the department of education.

21 IV. "Education freedom account" or "EFA" means the account to which funds are allocated
22 by the scholarship organization to the parent of an EFA student in order to pay for qualifying
23 education expenses to educate the EFA student under this chapter.

24 V. "Education service provider" means a person or organization that receives payments from
25 education freedom accounts to provide educational goods and services to EFA students.

26 VI. "Eligible student" means a resident of this state who is eligible to enroll in a public
27 elementary or secondary school and whose annual household income at the time the student applies
28 for the program is less than or equal to 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated
29 annually in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services
30 under 42 U.S.C. section 9902(2). No income threshold need be met in subsequent years, provided the
31 student otherwise qualifies. Students in the special school district within the department of
32 corrections established in RSA 194:60 shall not be eligible students.

33 VII. "EFA student" means an eligible student who is participating in the EFA program.

34 VIII. "Full-time" means more than 50 percent of instructional time.

35 IX. "Remote or hybrid" shall mean any public school that is not providing instruction in-
36 person where the student or the educator are both not physically present in the traditional
37 classroom due to full-time or part-time classroom closure.

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1 X. "Parent" means a biological or adoptive parent, legal guardian, custodian, or other person
2 with legal authority to act on behalf of an EFA student.

3 XI. "Program" means the education freedom account program established in this chapter.

4 XII. "Scholarship organization", means a scholarship organization approved under RSA
5 77:G, that administers and implements the EFA Act.

6 194-E:2 Program.

7 I. The commissioner of the department of education shall transfer to the scholarship
8 organization the per pupil adequate education grant amount under RSA 198:40-a, plus any
9 differentiated aid that would have been provided to a public school for that eligible student. The
10 transfers shall be made in accordance with the distribution of adequate education grants under RSA
11 198:42.

12 II. Parents of an EFA student shall agree to use the funds deposited in their student's EFA
13 only for the following qualifying expenses to educate the EFA student:

14 (a) Tuition and fees at a private school.

15 (b) Tuition and fees for non-public online learning programs.

16 (c) Tutoring services provided by an individual or a tutoring facility.

17 (d) Services contracted for and provided by a district public school, chartered public
18 school, public academy, or independent school, including, but not limited to, individual classes and
19 curricular activities and programs.

20 (e) Textbooks, curriculum, or other instructional materials, including, but not limited to,
21 any supplemental materials or associated online instruction required by either a curriculum or an
22 education service provider.

23 (f) Computer hardware, Internet connectivity, or other technological services and
24 devices, that are primarily used to help meet an EFA student's educational needs.

25 (g) Educational software and applications.

26 (h) School uniforms.

27 (i) Fees for nationally standardized assessments, advanced placement examinations,
28 examinations related to college or university admission or awarding of credits and tuition and/or fees
29 for preparatory courses for such exams.

30 (j) Tuition and fees for summer education programs and specialized education programs.

31 (k) Tuition, fees, instructional materials, and examination fees at a career or technical
32 school.

33 (l) Educational services and therapies, including, but not limited to, occupational,
34 behavioral, physical, speech-language, and audiology therapies.

35 (m) Tuition and fees at an institution of higher education.

36 (n) Fees for transportation paid to a fee-for-service transportation provider for the
37 student to travel to and from an education service provider.

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1 (o) Any other educational expense approved by the scholarship organization.

2 III. The funds in an EFA may only be used for educational purposes in accordance with
3 paragraph II.

4 IV. EFA funds shall not be refunded, rebated, or shared with a parent or EFA student in
5 any manner. Any refund or rebate for goods or services purchased with EFA funds shall be credited
6 directly to the student's EFA.

7 V. Parents may make payments for the costs of educational goods and services not covered
8 by the funds in their student's EFA. However, personal deposits into an EFA shall not be permitted.

9 VI. Funds deposited in an EFA shall not constitute taxable income to the parent or the EFA
10 student.

11 VII. An EFA shall remain in force, and any unused funds shall roll over from quarter-to-
12 quarter and from year-to-year until the parent withdraws the EFA student from the EFA program or
13 until the EFA student graduates from high school, unless the EFA is closed because of a substantial
14 misuse of funds. Any unused funds shall revert to the education trust fund established in RSA
15 198:39 and be allocated to fund other EFAs.

16 VIII. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require that an EFA student must be
17 enrolled, full- or part-time, in either a private school or nonpublic online school.

18 IX. A home education program pursuant to RSA 193-A:5 is terminated upon the
19 commencement of a student's participation in an EFA program. A parent shall provide notification
20 pursuant to RSA 193-A:5 when a student starts participating in an EFA program.

21 194-E:3 Application for an Education-Freedom Account.

22 I. A parent may apply to the scholarship organization to establish an EFA for an eligible
23 student. The scholarship organization shall accept and approve applications for the fall and spring
24 semesters each year, and shall establish procedures for approving applications in an expeditious
25 manner.

26 II. The scholarship organization shall create a standard form that parents can submit to
27 establish their student's eligibility for the EFA program and shall ensure that the application is
28 publicly available and may be submitted through various sources, including the Internet.

29 III. The scholarship organization shall approve an application for an EFA if:

30 (a) The parent submits an application for an EFA in accordance with application
31 procedures established by the scholarship organization.

32 (b) The student on whose behalf the parent is applying is an eligible student.

33 (c) Funds are available for the EFA.

34 (d) The parent signs an agreement with the scholarship organization:

35 (1) To provide an education for the eligible student in the core knowledge domains
36 that include science, mathematics, language, government, history, health, reading, writing, spelling,

1 the history of the constitutions of New Hampshire and the United States, and an exposure to and
2 appreciation of art and music.

3 (2) Not to enroll the eligible student as a full-time student in their resident district
4 public school while participating in the EFA program.

5 (3) To provide an annual record of educational attainment by:

6 (A) Having the student take a nationally-standardized, norm-referenced
7 achievement test and to provide the results to the scholarship organization by the end of each school
8 year which the scholarship organization shall make available to the department as aggregate scores;
9 or

10 (B) Having the student take the statewide student assessment test pursuant to
11 RSA 193-C:6; or

12 (C) Maintaining a portfolio including, but not limited to, a log which designates
13 by title the reading materials used; samples of writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative
14 materials used or developed by the student. The parent shall have a certified teacher or a teacher
15 currently teaching in a nonpublic school, who is selected by the parent, evaluate the student's
16 educational progress upon review of a portfolio and discussion with the parent or student.

17 (4) To use the funds in the EFA only for qualifying expenses to educate the eligible
18 student as established by the EFA program.

19 (5) To comply with the rules and requirements of the EFA program.

20 IV. The signed agreement between the parent and the scholarship organization shall satisfy
21 the compulsory school attendance requirements of RSA 193:1.

22 V. The scholarship organization shall annually renew a student's EFA if funds are available.

23 VI. Upon notice to the scholarship organization, an EFA student may choose to stop
24 receiving EFA funding and enroll full-time in a public school.

25 (a) Enrolling as a full-time student in the resident district public school shall result in
26 the immediate suspension of payment of additional funds into the student's EFA. However, an EFA
27 that has been open for at least one full school year shall remain open and active for the parent to
28 make qualifying expenditures to educate the student from funds remaining in the EFA. When no
29 funds remain in the student's EFA, the scholarship organization may close the EFA.

30 (b) If an eligible student decides to return to the EFA program, payments into the
31 student's existing EFA may resume if the EFA is still open and active. A new EFA may be
32 established if the student's EFA was closed.

33 194-E:4 Authority and Responsibilities of the Scholarship Organization. The scholarship
34 organization shall have the following additional duties, obligations, and authority:

35 I. The scholarship organization shall maintain an updated list of education service providers
36 and shall ensure that the list is publicly available through various sources, including the Internet.

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1 II. The scholarship organization shall provide parents with a written explanation of the
2 allowable uses of EFA funds, the responsibilities of parents, the duties of the scholarship
3 organization, and the role of any financial management firms that the scholarship organization may
4 contract with to administer any aspect of the EFA program.

5 III. The scholarship organization shall ensure that parents of students with disabilities
6 receive notice that participation in the EFA program is a parental placement under 20 U.S.C. section
7 1412, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), along with an explanation of the rights
8 that parentally placed students possess under IDEA and any applicable state laws.

9 IV. The scholarship organization shall, in cooperation with the department, determine
10 eligibility for differentiated aid subject to any applicable state and federal laws.

11 V. The scholarship organization may withhold from deposits or deduct from EFAs an
12 amount to cover the costs of administering the EFA program, up to a maximum of 10 percent
13 annually.

14 VI. The scholarship organization shall implement a commercially viable system for payment
15 of services from EFAs to education service providers by electronic or online funds transfer.

16 (a) The scholarship organization shall not adopt a system that relies exclusively on
17 requiring parents to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses, but rather shall provide maximum
18 flexibility to parents by facilitating direct payments to education service providers. Scholarship
19 organizations may pre-approve requests for reimbursements for qualifying expenses, including
20 expenses pursuant to RSA 194-E:2, II, but shall not disperse funds to parents without receipt that
21 such pre-approved purchase has been made.

22 (b) A scholarship organization may contract with a private institution or organization to
23 develop the payment system.

24 VII. The scholarship organization may also seek to implement a commercially viable system
25 for parents to publicly rate, review, and share information about education service providers, ideally
26 as part of the same system that facilitates the electronic or online funds transfers.

27 VIII. If an education service provider requires partial payment of tuition or fees prior to the
28 start of the academic year to reserve space for an EFA student admitted to the education service
29 provider, such partial payment may be paid by the scholarship organization, if funds are available,
30 prior to the start of the school year in which the EFA is awarded and deducted in an equitable
31 manner from subsequent quarterly EFA deposits to ensure adequate funds remain available
32 throughout the school year; but if an EFA student decides not to use the education service provider,
33 the partial reservation payment shall be returned to the scholarship organization by such education
34 service provider and credited to the student's EFA.

35 IX. The scholarship organization shall continue making deposits into a student's EFA until:

36 (a) The scholarship organization determines that the EFA student is no longer an
37 eligible student.

1 (b) The scholarship organization determines that there was substantial misuse of the
2 funds in the EFA.

3 (c) The parent or EFA student withdraws from the EFA program.

4 (d) The EFA student enrolls full-time in the resident district public school.

5 (e) The EFA student graduates from high school.

6 X. The scholarship organization may conduct or contract for the auditing of individual EFAs,
7 and shall at a minimum conduct random audits of EFAs on an annual basis.

8 XI. The scholarship organization may make any parent or EFA student ineligible for the
9 EFA program in the event of intentional and substantial misuse of EFA funds.

10 (a) The scholarship organization shall create procedures to ensure that a fair process
11 exists to determine whether an intentional and substantial misuse of EFA funds has occurred.

12 (b) If an EFA student is free from personal misconduct, that student shall be eligible for
13 an EFA in the future if placed with a new guardian or other person with the legal authority to act on
14 behalf of the student.

15 (c) The scholarship organization may refer suspected cases of intentional and
16 substantial misuse of EFA funds to the attorney general for investigation if evidence of fraudulent
17 use of EFA funds is obtained.

18 (d) A parent or EFA student may appeal the scholarship organization's decision to deny
19 eligibility for the EFA program to the department.

20 XII. The scholarship organization may bar an education service provider from accepting
21 payments from EFAs if the scholarship organization determines that the education service provider
22 has:

23 (a) Intentionally and substantially misrepresented information or failed to refund any
24 overpayments in a timely manner.

25 (b) Routinely failed to provide students with promised educational goods or services.

26 XIII. The scholarship organization shall create procedures to ensure that a fair process
27 exists to determine whether an education service provider may be barred from receiving payments
28 from EFAs.

29 (a) If the scholarship organization bars an education service provider from receiving
30 payments from EFAs, it shall notify parents and EFA students of its decision as quickly as possible.

31 (b) Education service providers may appeal the scholarship organization's decision to bar
32 them from receiving payments from the EFA to the department.

33 XIV. The scholarship organization may accept gifts and grants from any source to cover
34 administrative costs, to inform the public about the EFA program, or to fund additional EFAs.

35 XV. The department shall adopt rules that are necessary for the administration of this
36 chapter.

1 XVI. The scholarship organization shall adopt policies or procedures that are necessary for
2 the administration of this chapter. This may include policies or procedures:

3 (a) Establishing or contracting for the establishment of an online anonymous fraud
4 reporting service.

5 (b) Establishing an anonymous telephone number for fraud reporting.

6 (c) Requiring a surety bond for education service providers receiving more than \$100,000
7 in EFA funds.

8 (d) Refunding payments from education service providers to EFAs.

9 (e) Ensuring appropriate use and rigorous oversight of all funds expended under this
10 program.

11 XVII. The scholarship organization shall not exclude, discriminate against, or otherwise
12 disadvantage any education provider with respect to programs or services under this section based
13 in whole or in part on the provider's religious character or affiliation, including religiously based or
14 mission-based policies or practices.

15 194-E:5 Parent and Education Service Provider Advisory Commission.

16 I. There is established the parent and education service provider advisory commission to
17 assist the scholarship organization by providing recommendations about implementing,
18 administering, and improving the EFA program.

19 II. The commission shall consist of 7 members who shall be parents of EFA students or
20 education service providers and shall represent no fewer than 4 counties in the state. The members
21 shall be appointed by the director of the scholarship organization and serve at the director's pleasure
22 for one calendar year after which they may be reappointed. The director of the scholarship
23 organization, or designee, shall serve as a non-voting chairperson of the commission. The
24 commissioner of the department of education, or designee, shall serve as a non-voting member of the
25 commission.

26 III. The scholarship organization may request the commission to meet, in person or
27 virtually, to review appeals of education service provider denials pursuant to RSA 194-E:4, XI and to
28 provide a recommendation to the scholarship organization as to whether an education service
29 provider should be allowed to receive, or continue receiving, payments from EFAs.

30 194-E:6 Requirements for Education Service Providers.

31 I. The scholarship organization may approve education service providers on its own
32 initiative, at the request of parents, or by notice to the scholarship organization provided by
33 prospective education service providers.

34 II. A prospective education service provider that wishes to receive payments from EFAs
35 shall:

36 (a) Submit notice to the scholarship organization that it wishes to receive payments from
37 EFAs.

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1 (b) Agree not to refund, rebate, or share EFA funds with parents or EFA students in any
2 manner, except that funds may be remitted or refunded to an EFA in accordance with procedures
3 established by the scholarship organization.

4 (c) Comply with all state and federal anti-discrimination laws.

5 194-E:7 Independence of Education Service Providers.

6 I. Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to limit the independence or autonomy of an
7 education service provider or to make the actions of an education service provider the actions of the
8 state government.

9 II. Education service providers shall be given maximum freedom to provide for the
10 educational needs of EFA students without governmental control.

11 III. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to expand the regulatory authority of the
12 state, its officers, or any school district to impose any additional regulation of education service
13 providers beyond those necessary to enforce the requirements of the EFA program.

14 IV. Any education service provider that accepts payment from an EFA under this chapter is
15 not an agent of the state or federal government.

16 V. An education service provider shall not be required to alter its creed, practices,
17 admissions policy, or curriculum in order to accept payments from an EFA.

18 194-E:8 Responsibilities of Public Schools and School Districts. A public school, or school
19 district, that previously enrolled an EFA student shall provide a private school that is also an
20 education service provider and that has enrolled an EFA student with a complete copy of the ESA
21 student's school records, in a timely manner, while complying with 20 U.S.C. section 1232g, the
22 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

23 194-E:9 Legal Proceedings.

24 I. In any legal proceeding challenging the application of this chapter to an education service
25 provider, the state bears the burden of establishing that the law is necessary and does not impose
26 any undue burden on the education service provider.

27 II. No liability shall arise on the part of the scholarship organization or the state or of any
28 public school or school district based on the award of or use of an EFA pursuant to this chapter.

29 III. If any part of this chapter is challenged in a state court as violating either the state or
30 federal constitutions, parents of eligible and/or EFA students shall be permitted to intervene as of
31 right in such lawsuit for the purposes of defending the EFA program's constitutionality. However,
32 for the purposes of judicial administration, a court may require that all parents file a joint brief, so
33 long as they are not required to join any brief filed on behalf of any named state defendant.

34 IV. If any provision of this chapter, or the application thereof to any person or
35 circumstances, is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this
36 chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the
37 provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.

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1 194-E:10 Phase-Out Grants.

2 I. For each school district, the commissioner shall calculate the amount of the reduction in
3 adequate education grants pursuant to RSA 194-E:2, I for each student receiving an EFA under this
4 chapter. In the first year of the grant reduction, the commissioner shall calculate 50 percent of the
5 reduction for each student and shall disburse that amount to the district as a district funding
6 phaseout grant. In the second year of the grant reduction, the commissioner shall calculate 25
7 percent of the reduction for each student and shall disburse that amount to the district as a district
8 funding phase-out grant. All district funding phase-out grants shall be included in the September 1
9 disbursement required pursuant to RSA 198:42.

10 II. The phase-out grants will terminate for new EFA students receiving an EFA effective
11 July 1, 2026.

12 194-E:11 Appropriation From Education Trust Fund. The amount necessary to fund any grants
13 or transfers of funds authorized under this chapter is hereby appropriated to the department from
14 the education trust fund created under RSA 198:39. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant
15 from the education trust fund to satisfy the state's obligation under this section. Such warrant for
16 payment shall be issued regardless of the balance of funds available in the education trust fund. If
17 the balance in the education trust fund, after the issuance of any such warrant, is less than zero, the
18 comptroller shall transfer sufficient funds from the general fund to eliminate such deficit. The
19 commissioner of the department of administrative services shall inform the fiscal committee and the
20 governor and council of such balance. This reporting shall not in any way prohibit or delay the
21 distribution of any grant or transfer of funds authorized under this chapter.

22 194-E:12 Legislative Oversight Committee Established. There is established an education
23 freedom savings account oversight committee.

24 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

25 (a) Two members of the senate, one of whom shall be a member of the majority party
26 and one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, appointed by the president of the senate.

27 (b) Three members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be a member of
28 the majority party and one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, appointed by the
29 speaker of the house of representatives.

30 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to
31 the duties of the committee.

32 III. The committee shall monitor the implementation of RSA 194-E, including the impact of
33 state education funding to local district schools, and make recommendations for any legislative
34 changes to the education freedom savings account program.

35 IV. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members.
36 The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named senate member. The first

1 meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Three
2 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

3 V. The committee shall submit a report on or before November 30, 2022, and each year
4 thereafter, to the general court including findings, recommendations, and any corrective or technical
5 improvements that the education freedom account program may require.

6 446 Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil. Amend RSA 193:1, I(g) and (h) to read as
7 follows:

8 (g) The pupil has been accepted into an accredited postsecondary education program;
9 [or]

10 (h) The pupil obtains a waiver from the superintendent, which shall only be granted
11 upon proof that the pupil is 16 years of age or older and has an alternative learning plan for
12 obtaining either a high school diploma or its equivalent.

13 (1) Alternative learning plans shall include age-appropriate academic rigor and the
14 flexibility to incorporate the pupil's interests and manner of learning. These plans may include, but
15 are not limited to, such components or combination of components of extended learning opportunities
16 as independent study, private instruction, performing groups, internships, community service,
17 apprenticeships, and on-line courses.

18 (2) Alternative learning plans shall be developed, and amended if necessary, in
19 consultation with the pupil, a school guidance counselor, the school principal and at least one parent
20 or guardian of the pupil, and submitted to the school district superintendent for approval.

21 (3) If the superintendent does not approve the alternative learning plan, the parent
22 or guardian of the pupil may appeal such decision to the local school board. A parent or guardian
23 may appeal the decision of the local school board to the state board of education consistent with the
24 provisions of RSA 21:11, III; or

25 ***(i) The pupil is enrolled in the education freedom account program pursuant to***
26 ***RSA 194-E and is therefore exempt from this requirement.***

27 447 Effective Date. Sections 445 and 446 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

28 448 Town of Haverhill; Woodsville Fire District. Amend 1887, 204:3, as amended by 1899,
29 196:2; 1990, 37:1; and 2009, 147:1 to read as follows:

30 SECT. 3. Said district at each annual meeting shall elect by ballot a moderator, a clerk, one
31 auditor, a treasurer, and three commissioners. All of said officers shall be elected by a majority vote
32 of all the voters present and voting at the annual meeting. Said officers shall exercise in relation to
33 district meetings the like powers to those of moderator, clerk, and selectmen of towns. The
34 commissioners shall have within the district all the powers of the mayor and aldermen of any city
35 respecting highways, sidewalks, and sewers. They shall control and direct the expenditure of all
36 moneys raised under authority of the district and by the town of Haverhill for expenditure in the
37 district. They shall have sole authority to appoint a highway surveyor in said district, and in default

1 of such appointment shall themselves perform the duties of that office. The surveyor or
2 commissioners performing the duties of highway surveyor in the district shall give bond to the town
3 to account for all money coming into their hands, and for the proper care and custody of the property
4 of the town or district which may come into their custody or control, and shall be deemed officers of
5 the town. Nothing in this act shall be construed to impose any distinct or special liability upon the
6 district respecting highways within its limits. ***Nothing in this section shall preclude the***
7 ***Woodsville fire district from maintaining the roads within the precinct at its own expense.***

8 Vacancies that may occur in the office of commissioner in the district shall be filled by appointment
9 of the remaining commissioners or commissioner, but any commissioner appointed to fill a vacancy
10 shall hold office only until the next annual district meeting. Commissioners shall be residents of the
11 district. ~~[The money appropriated for the distribution of highway funds in the district which is~~
12 ~~attributable to the town of Haverhill shall be determined by a fraction, the numerator of which shall~~
13 ~~be the assessed valuation of the properties in the district, and the denominator of which shall be the~~
14 ~~assessed valuation of the properties in the entire town of Haverhill as determined annually from the~~
15 ~~town MS 1 form. The town of Haverhill shall appropriate the percentage represented by such~~
16 ~~fraction for distribution to the highway fund in care of the Woodsville fire district commissioners.]~~

17 ***Highway block grant funds shall be distributed in accordance with the department of***
18 ***transportation formula. Any appropriations to the Woodsville fire district shall be as***
19 ***directed by warrant articles duly voted by the voters present and voting at each annual***
20 ***Haverhill town meeting.***

21 449 Financial Audit Requirement. No later than one year after the effective date of section 448
22 of this act, the Woodsville fire district shall provide financial audits by a certified public accountant
23 approved by the department of revenue administration that is compliant with generally accepted
24 accounting practices (GAAP), of all funds received from the town of Haverhill and all other sources
25 including state and federal funds, and of all funds expended by the fire district, for each calendar
26 year commencing January 1, 2015 to the effective date of section 448 of this act, as directed by the
27 department of revenue administration. The department of revenue administration shall approve the
28 scope of the audit and shall receive monthly updates from the certified public accountant and the
29 Woodsville fire district on the status of the audit while it is in progress. The results of the audit
30 shall be published on the town of Haverhill website within 60 days of delivery by the certified public
31 accountant to the Woodsville fire district and the department of revenue administration. The audit
32 shall be at the expense of the Woodsville fire district. Reimbursement of any expenses related to the
33 audit incurred by the department of revenue administration shall be in accordance with the
34 provisions of RSA 21-J:22. The department of revenue administration may levy a fine of \$250 per
35 day against the Woodsville fire district for every day of noncompliance with section 448 of this act
36 beyond one year from the effective date of section 448 of this act. The commissioner may waive such

1 fine at his or her discretion, subject to the good faith efforts of the Woodsville fire district to comply
2 with all relevant laws and the provisions of section 448 of this act.

3 450 Effective Date. Sections 448 and 449 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

4 451 Findings.

5 I. On March 13, 2020, the governor signed the first declaration of a state of emergency due
6 to COVID-19. As of January 1, 2021, this order has been extended 14 times.

7 II. Between March 26, 2020 and June 16, 2020, a "Stay at Home" order had been in-place
8 under the authority of the governor as measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This order
9 included the closing of schools, prohibited gatherings of 10 or more people, and limited business
10 operations that were not considered essential.

11 III. Between March and August of 2020, 449 New Hampshire business, closed temporarily or
12 permanently, with 280 remaining closed.

13 IV. New Hampshire began "reopening" on May 11, 2020 with restrictions, some of which
14 remain in place today and continue to impact the micro enterprise sector, those businesses with
15 between 1 and 5 employees including the proprietor. According to the Small Business
16 Administration, Office of Advocacy, there are 25,478 business with between 1-19 employees and
17 101,795 non-employer businesses.

18 V. It is incumbent upon the state government to take prompt, proactive, and continuing
19 action to protect the economic health of New Hampshire communities through building out the
20 infrastructure and sustainability of micro-enterprises.

21 452 New Subdivision; COVID-19 Micro Enterprise Relief Fund. Amend RSA 12-O by inserting
22 after section 52 the following new subdivision:

23 COVID-19 Micro Enterprise Relief Fund

24 12-O:53 COVID-19 Micro Enterprise Relief Fund.

25 I. There is established in the office of the state treasurer a fund to be known as the COVID-
26 19 micro enterprise relief fund. Notwithstanding RSA 4:45, RSA 4:47, RSA 21-P:43, or any other law
27 to the contrary, to the extent permissible under federal law \$1 of any federal funds received by the
28 state in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency shall be deposited into the fund,
29 provided that at no time shall the balance of the fund exceed \$1 in any fiscal year.

30 II. Funds shall be disbursed at the discretion of the commissioner to the 10 New Hampshire
31 regional economic development corporations to be awarded to local or regional micro enterprises.
32 Each regional development corporation shall receive up to \$1. Each regional development economic
33 council shall be authorized to assess an administrative fee up to 10 percent of the funds received
34 through the state to manage this grant program. Any regional economic development corporation
35 that does not award all of the funds received in grants to local micro enterprises shall return the
36 funds to micro enterprise relief fund at the department of business and economic affairs for
37 redistribution at the discretion of the commissioner.

1 III. With each award, an agreement for technical assistance shall be put in place between
2 the regional development corporation, the New Hampshire small business development center, and
3 the micro enterprise to support the implementation of the funds. 18 months after the
4 implementation of the program, the regional economic development councils will prepare and submit
5 reports to the commissioner, that include the number of grants and the amounts, and the use of each
6 grant by the recipient. The commissioner shall compile these reports and submit a compiled report
7 to the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate president, the house clerk, the senate
8 clerk, the state library, and the governor.

9 IV. Regional economic development corporations shall award one-time grants of up to \$1 to
10 support one or more areas of need, including development of e-commerce capabilities, upgrading
11 business practices, or maintaining storefront presence. The regional economic development
12 corporations shall ensure micro enterprises awarded grants pursuant to this subdivision are
13 provided such assistance as may be necessary to support implementation of any grants awarded.

14 V. For purposes of this subdivision, "micro enterprise" shall mean an entity with 10 or fewer
15 employees, including any proprietor, that has been in business prior to March 13, 2020, when the
16 governor signed the first declaration of a state of emergency due to COVID-19 and that has
17 demonstrated a financial impact during the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as temporary
18 closure, reduction in workforce, or loss of revenue of 50 percent or greater when compared to the
19 same time period during the previous year. Financial statements demonstrating losses, closures, or
20 reduction in workforce shall be supplied as part of the application process.

21 453 New Subparagraph; Application of Receipts; COVID-19 Micro Enterprise Relief Fund.
22 Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (364) the following new subparagraph:

23 (365) Moneys deposited into the COVID-19 micro enterprise relief fund established
24 in RSA 12-O:53.

25 454 Purpose Statement. Independent live venues are important entertainment hubs and
26 economic multipliers for New Hampshire's local economies. They serve as critical tax bases as
27 employers and tourism destinations and as revenue generators for neighboring businesses such as
28 restaurants, hotels, and retail. The cultural impact of New Hampshire's independent live venues is
29 difficult to calculate and serves as an important draw for young people to the state. Unfortunately,
30 these businesses were among the first to close as COVID-19 spread across the country, will likely be
31 the last to reopen, and will take years to recover if they can stay in business at all. Smaller venues
32 with a capacity of 300 or less are being impacted the most by the COVID-19 economic and public
33 health crisis. Sections 455-458 of this act provides targeted assistance and long-term planning
34 support and recognizes the importance of independent live venues to New Hampshire's economy.

35 455 Council on the Arts; Declaration of Policy. Amend RSA 19-A:1 to read as follows:

36 19-A:1 Declaration of Policy. It is hereby found that many of our citizens lack the opportunity to
37 view, enjoy or participate in living theatrical performances, musical concerts, operas, dance and

1 ballet recitals, art exhibits, examples of fine architecture, and the performing and fine arts
2 generally. It is hereby further found that, with increasing leisure time, the practice and enjoyment
3 of the arts are of increasing importance and that the general welfare of the people of the state will be
4 promoted by giving further recognition to the arts as a vital aspect of our culture and heritage and as
5 a valued means of expanding the scope of our educational programs. *It is hereby further found*
6 *that arts organizations and businesses are important entertainment hubs and economic*
7 *multipliers for New Hampshire's local economies. They serve as critical tax bases as*
8 *employers and tourism destinations and as revenue generators for neighboring businesses*
9 *such as restaurants, hotels, and retail. The cultural impact of New Hampshire's creative*
10 *sector is difficult to calculate and serves as an important draw for young people to the*
11 *state.* It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state to join with private patrons and with
12 institutions and professional organizations concerned with the arts to insure that the role of the arts
13 in the life of our communities will continue to grow and will play an ever more significant part in the
14 welfare and educational experience of our citizens. It is further declared that all activities
15 undertaken by the state in carrying out this policy shall be directed toward encouraging and
16 assisting rather than in any ways limiting the freedom of artistic expression that is essential for the
17 well-being of the arts.

18 456 Council on the Arts; Report. Amend RSA 19-A:7 to read as follows:

19 19-A:7 Reports. The council shall make biennial reports to the governor and council. *The*
20 *council's strategic plan and biennial report under this section shall address the activities*
21 *related to the save our granite stages fund created under RSA 19-A:15.*

22 457 New Subdivision; Council on the Arts; Save Our Granite Stages Fund. Amend RSA 19-A by
23 inserting after section 14 the following new subdivision:

24 Save Our Granite Stages Fund

25 19-A:15 Save Our Granite Stages Fund. There is hereby established the save our granite stages
26 fund, which shall be appropriated for fiscal year 2022 to the New Hampshire state council on the
27 arts for the purpose of providing grants to both non-profit and for-profit live venues that did not
28 receive a grant from the federal Shuttered Venue Operators (SVO) program, which was established
29 by Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits and Venues Act (P.L. 116-260). The fund
30 shall be nonlapsing and kept separate and distinct from all other funds. Notwithstanding any other
31 provision of law, \$1 of any discretionary federal funds received by the state in response to the
32 COVID-19 public health emergency shall be deposited into the fund. In addition to state
33 appropriations, the council may accept grants, gifts, and donations for deposit in the fund.

34 458 New Subparagraph; Dedicated Funds; Save our Granite Stages Fund. Amend RSA 6:12,
35 I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (364) the following new subparagraph:

36 (365) Moneys deposited in the save our granite stages fund under RSA 19-A:15.

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1 459 Repeal. RSA 19-A:15 and RSA 6:12, I(b)(365), relative to the save our granite stages fund,
2 as inserted by sections 457 and 458 of this act, respectively, are repealed.

3 460 Effective Date.

4 I. Section 459 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2023.

5 II. Sections 451 through 458 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

6 461 Effective Date. Unless otherwise specified, the remainder of this act shall take effect July 1,
7 2021.

UNAPPROVED

2021-1799s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

1. Requires the judicial branch to reimburse the sheriff's offices for costs of court security and prisoner custody and control, within available funds appropriated by the legislature, and requires remote technology whenever possible.
2. Makes a transfer of unexpended funds to the state heating system savings account.
3. Eliminates the bureau of planning and management functions and moves such functions to the division of plant and property.
4. Establishes the graphic services fund in the department of administrative services.
5. Consolidates human resources and payroll functions in the department of administrative services.
6. Repeals the memorandum of understanding with the commissioner of the department of health and human services for the purpose of delineating the functions to be assumed by the department of administrative services.
7. Extends the date on which an appropriation to the department of administrative services for scheduling software lapses.
8. Directs the payment of state employee medical benefits payments from the retirement system.
9. Clarifies the administration of the retirement system of payments made for medical benefits of state retirees.
10. Enables the supreme court to transfer funds.
11. Provides for the state to reimburse the sheriff's offices for court security for the biennium.
12. Enables the sale of the lakes region facility in Laconia.
13. Requires the commissioner of the department of health and human services to make quarterly reports on the status of estimated Medicaid payments in relation to actual costs.
14. Suspends congregate housing and services and the foster grandparent program for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.
15. Establishes the emergency services for children, youth, and families fund and eliminates certain parental reimbursements.
16. Prohibits the distribution of state funds awarded by the department of health and human services to a reproductive health care facility for provision of abortion services, and prohibits a health care provider from performing an abortion if the gestational age of the fetus is at least 24 weeks unless there is a medical emergency.

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17. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for streamlining agency operations.
18. Requiring the commissioner of the department of health and human services to submit an amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to suspend all catastrophic aid payments to hospitals for the biennium.
19. Enables the department of military affairs and veterans services to provide support for veterans' mental health and preventing social isolation.
20. Transfers the controlled drug prescription health and safety program to the department of health and human services.
21. Suspends revenue sharing with cities and towns for the biennium.
22. Enables the liquor commission to process merchant cards.
23. Enables the department of education to accept gifts, contributions, and bequests for the New Hampshire scholars program.
24. Provides for increased education grants to bring the state into compliance with the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 .
25. Makes transfers to the education trust fund.
26. Makes an appropriation from the education trust fund to the department of education to fund operating costs for a student data collection and reporting system.
27. Authorizes expenditures for energy efficient school buses.
28. Establishes the position of director of intergovernmental affairs in the department of business and economic affairs.
29. Repeals the bureau of film and digital media.
30. Suspends the crediting of meals and rooms tax revenue to the division of travel and tourism.
31. Enables the department of corrections to transfer funds.
32. Changes the approval threshold for contracts set by the governor and council manual of procedures.
33. Prohibits the dispersing of state aid grants for certain new infrastructure projects in the department of environmental services.
34. Renames the divisions of the office of professional licensure and certification and establishes pharmacy compliance investigator positions within the office.
35. Makes an appropriation to the New Hampshire Internet crimes against children fund.
36. Makes an appropriation to the FRM victims recovery fund and removes the prospective repeal of the fund.
37. Provides for transfer of funds to the revenue stabilization reserve account based on the most recently completed fiscal biennium.

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38. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of funding one-time maintenance of the Medicaid management information system.

39. Reduces the tax rate of, and in 2027 eliminates, the interest and dividends tax.

40. Reduces the tax rate of the meals and rooms tax.

41. Establishes the meals and rooms municipal revenue fund for the distribution of meals and rooms tax revenues by the state treasurer to towns, cities, and places.

42. Increases the filing threshold for the business enterprise tax and reduces the rate of the tax; and reduces the rate of the business profits tax.

43. Limits the amount of the credit allowed against overpayment of the business profits tax and the business enterprise tax and establishes a commission to study limiting the business tax credit carry over.

44. Excludes under the business profits tax the business income of a taxpayer received by reason of forgiveness of indebtedness issued or created under the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

45. Allows the New Hampshire veterans' home to transfer funds within accounting units for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

46. Revises the procedure for compensation for loss of agricultural products or livestock due to bears.

47. Authorizes the department of information technology to fill unfunded positions.

48. Modifies the composition and operation of the adult parole board and permits remote meetings during a pandemic or other declared state of emergency.

49. Requires employer pro rata payments to the workers' compensation administration fund to be based on the preceding calendar year ratios and amends the payment of per diems to workers' compensation appeals board members.

50. Amends the unemployment compensation fund balance necessary to trigger increases or decreases in employer contributions to the fund and repeals the emergency surcharge power of the commissioner of the department of employment security.

51. Imposes liability on any person who renders any highway unsuitable for public travel, including full and current replacement cost.

52. Provides that proceeds from a sale that results from money provided by the highway fund for payback of real property purchased with federal funds shall be credited to the department of transportation for the purpose of meeting federal obligations or reimbursing the highway fund for payment of federal obligations.

53. Adds definitions relating to small unmanned aircraft and small unmanned aircraft systems to the New Hampshire aeronautics act.

54. Amends an appropriation to the department of transportation for the 2018 fiscal year and provides that it lapse to the highway fund and be expended for the purpose of funding state red list bridge projects.

Amendment to HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL

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55. Establishes a body-worn and dashboard camera fund and makes appropriations; establishes a classified business administrator I position in the department of safety; and establishes a commission to develop recommendations for legislation to establish a single, neutral, and independent statewide entity to receive complaints alleging misconduct regarding all sworn and elected law enforcement officers.

56. Requires the department of safety, in collaboration with the department of administrative services, to establish standards for radio infrastructure-related hardware, computers, software, related licenses, media, documentation, support and maintenance services.

57. Establishes within the department of justice an unclassified position of director of diversity and community outreach.

58. Authorizes the judicial council to request additional funding expenditures for termination of parental rights services that are greater than amounts appropriated in the operating budget.

59. Moves the governor's scholarship program and fund from the office of strategic initiatives to the college tuition savings plan and authorizes the college tuition savings plan advisory commission to transfer funds between the governor's scholarship fund and the New Hampshire excellence in higher education endowment trust fund.

60. Transfers the regulation of audiologists and hearing aid dealers to the governing board of speech language pathology.

61. Establishes the department of energy to govern energy and utilities matters, and have oversight on matters under the public utilities commission.

62. Administratively attaches the public utilities commission to the department of energy and makes corresponding changes to existing laws relating to the organization and duties of the public utilities commission to reflect this change.

63. Transfers certain duties from the public utilities commission to the department of energy.

64. Adds the commissioner of the department of energy to the New Hampshire site evaluation committee.

65. Requires that the department of energy advocate for New Hampshire in regional activities concerning competitive electricity suppliers.

66. Requires that the department of energy require electric and gas utilities to operate an online energy data platform and, in conjunction with the public utilities commission, implement a statewide electric utility restructuring plan.

67. Requires the bank commissioner to charge the public deposit investment pool for actual costs incurred by the banking department to operate the pool.

68. Removes the consideration of weighted apportionment factors under the business profits tax from inclusion in the tax expenditure report and includes the regional career and technical education center tax credit.

69. Allowing the department of employment security to participate in a department of labor information hub to combat fraud and waste.

70. Establishes and describes a right to freedom from certain types of discrimination based on age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, mental or physical disability, religion, or national origin in public workplaces and education.

71. Requires violations of the governor's emergency orders regarding the Covid-19 pandemic to be reversed.

72. Creates a database for animal records; renames animal health certificates as certificates of transfer; authorizes the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food to transfer money to and from certain funds in order to establish the animal record database and to repay monies transferred from other funds; and establishes a position in the department of information technology for the building and management of the animal records database.

73. Establishes the dual and concurrent enrollment program in the community college system of New Hampshire and amends the administrative responsibilities for the program.

74. Makes an appropriation to the community college system of New Hampshire for the dual and concurrent enrollment program.

75. Increases the limit on the amount of the annual grant for leased space provided to a chartered public school.

76. Requires the department of education to develop and maintain a 10-year plan for school building grant projects.

77. Provides that the amount necessary to fund kindergarten adequate education grants shall be appropriated from the education trust fund; authorizes the governor to draw a warrant to eliminate a deficit if the balance in the education trust fund falls below zero; and makes an appropriation to the department of education for fiscal year 2020 kindergarten funding.

78. Provides that members-at-large are included as representatives of the same town as a deceased member of a school planning committee for the purpose of filling vacancies.

79. Makes an appropriation to the department of transportation for the highway and bridge betterment program and the acquisition of fleet vehicles.

80. Makes an appropriation to the department of education for school building aid payments to school districts and suspends the cap on school building aid grants for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

81. Reduces the amount of education tax revenue to be raised for the 2023 fiscal year.

82. Requires the department of health and human services to fund employment-related child care services without a wait list and to provide enrollment-based reimbursement to certain child care providers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 without using general funds.

83. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services to operate the Sununu youth services center and closes the Sununu youth services center in 2023.

84. Establishes a committee to develop a plan for the closure and replacement of the Sununu youth services center.

85. Limits further expansion of the closed loop referral system by the department of health and human services pending review of the system by the legislative oversight committee on health and human services.

Amendment to HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL
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86. Allows political subdivisions to treat funds received pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 as unanticipated revenue under RSA 31:95-b.

87. Established salaries and salary schedules for certain state officers, and classified and unclassified state employees.

88. Provides that positions in state government which become available as a result of reorganization or downsizing of state government be filled, if possible, by laid off state employees.

89. Establishes the granite state paid family leave plan.

90. Establishes procedures and rulemaking for executive branch employee annual leave, sick leave, transfer credit, and terminal pay.

91. Abolishes classified full-time positions which were vacant prior to July 1, 2018 and remain vacant as of July 1, 2021.

92. Makes an appropriation to the department of agriculture, markets, and food to fund the cost of care fund; establishes a disease data manager position in the department and makes an appropriation for the position.

93. Establishes the unclassified position of assistant attorney general in the department of justice.

94. Creates the National Guard enlistment-incentive program and makes an appropriation therefor.

95. Establishes the positions of director of life and health and director of property and casualty within the insurance department.

96. Makes an appropriation to the business finance authority to provide grants to regional economic development corporations.

97. Makes an appropriation to the affordable housing fund.

98. Makes limitations on the grant in aid program administered by the bureau of trails, division of parks and recreation, in the department of natural and cultural affairs for OHRV trails.

99. Makes an appropriation to the Hampton Beach area commission for environmental master plan updates.

100. Appropriates funds to the department of safety for overtime costs at the state forensic laboratory; to the state police for narcotics-related enforcement; and to disburse grants to county and local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of funding overtime costs for county and local law enforcement officers performing law enforcement activities attributable to the substance abuse enforcement program.

101. Appropriates funds to the fire standards and training and emergency medical services fund for the 2022 and 2023 fiscal years, and to the department of safety, division of fire standards and training and emergency medical services, to fund additional part-time instruction or increase the tuition discount for certain emergency service personnel.

102. Transfers funds from the general fund to the highway fund.

103. Appropriates \$7,000,000 to the department of transportation for the Conway Bypass right-of-way payback to the federal highway administration.

104. Directs the commissioner of the department of transportation to remove toll booths on exit 10 in Merrimack.

105. Appropriates \$3,250,000 to the department of transportation for a project in Tilton.

106. Makes an appropriation to the department of transportation for matching grants.

107. Extends a prior appropriation to the department of health and human services for child welfare behavioral health services.

108. Requires that the New Hampshire 10-year mental health plan include a report on implementation of 2019, 44 (SB 14), relative to child welfare.

109. Establishes positions in the department of health and human services contracts and procurement unit and makes an appropriation for this purpose.

110. Requires the department of health and human services to implement SNAP health incentive programs and makes an appropriation to the department for this purpose.

111. Extends the prospective repeal relative to the waitlist for community mental health services.

112. Adds an exception for rulemaking by the department of health and human services for cost of living adjustments in social security benefits contained within the Social Services Block Grant program.

113. Continues the suspension of RSA 151-E:18, regarding presumptive eligibility for long-term care home and community-based services, from HB 4, Chapter 346:69 Laws of 2019.

114. Establishes a committee to study parity in reimbursement among organizations that provide Social Security Act waiver programs.

115. Makes an appropriation to fund transitional housing beds and to increase rate paid for transitional housing beds, and allows funds appropriated in 2019 to be used to for these purposes.

116. Restricts a portion of rural health & primary care funding for the state loan repayment program.

117. Changes the lapse period for certain funds appropriated to the department of health and human services, division of medicaid services and requires such funds to be treated as restricted revenue.

118. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the construction of a forensic psychiatric hospital.

119. Provides that certain waiver/nursing facility funds shall be treated as restricted revenue for funding expenditures for waiver/nursing facilities-county participation.

120. Provides that the home visiting program shall be available to all Medicaid eligible pregnant women, infants, and families with children up to age one.

121. Suspends graduate medical education payments for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

122. Makes a supplemental appropriation to the department of health and human services for juvenile diversion programs and provides that the department of health and human services shall establish procedures for administration of the state-funded programs.

123. Requires the commissioner of the department of health and human services to solicit information and to contract with dental managed care organizations to provide dental care to persons under the Medicaid managed care program and makes an appropriation for the dental benefit for 2023 fiscal year.

124. Limits the home visiting program to available appropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

125. Suspends certain income eligibility standards for in-and-out medical assistance for the biennium ending June 30, 2023.

126. Allows the department of health and human services to accept and expend additional federal funds with the prior approval of the fiscal committee for the Medicaid to schools program.

127. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services to provide grants to senior centers or other organizations serving senior citizens.

128. Makes an appropriation to the lottery commission for the purpose of paying off the commercial mortgage on the building serving as the lottery commission's headquarters.

129. Lowers Keno license fees.

130. Makes an appropriation from the education trust fund to the department of education to fund operating costs for a student data collection and reporting system.

131. Makes an appropriation to the governor's scholarship fund.

132. Establishes the education freedom account program which permits the treasurer to transfer adequate education grants, plus any differentiated aid that would have been provided to a public school, to a scholarship organization for disbursement to parents to be used for certain educational purposes; appropriates the funds authorized under this program from the education trust fund; and authorizes the comptroller to transfer funds from the general fund to eliminate any deficit in the education trust fund created by the payment of grants or transfers of funds under the program.

133. Modifies the law on the operation and funding of the Woodsville fire district and directs that appropriations to the Woodsville fire district shall be as directed by warrant articles duly voted at each annual Haverhill town meeting.

134. Establishes a COVID-19 micro enterprise relief fund.

135. Provides for the support and promotion of New Hampshire's live performance industry by the council on the arts.

Committee Minutes

REVISED
SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
Finance

Sen Gary Daniels, Chair
Sen John Reagan, Vice Chair
Sen Bob Giuda, Member
Sen Erin Hennessey, Member
Sen Chuck Morse, Member
Sen Lou D'Allesandro, Member
Sen Cindy Rosenwald, Member

Date: April 28, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday	05/04/2021	
(Day)	(Date)	
Finance	REMOTE 000	1:00 p.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)

1:00 p.m. **HB 1-A** making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

1:00 p.m. **HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL** relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

Members of the public may attend using the following links:

1. Link to Zoom Webinar: <https://www.zoom.us/j/95006733265>
2. To listen via telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): 1-301-715-8592, or 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099, or 1-253-215-8782, or 1-346-248-7799, or 1-669-900-6833
3. Or iPhone one-tap: 19292056099,,95006733265# or 13017158592,,95006733265#
4. Webinar ID: 950 0673 3265
5. To view/listen to this hearing on YouTube, use this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjBZdtrjRnQdmg-2MPMiWrA>
6. To sign in to speak, register your position on a bill and/or submit testimony, use this link:
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/remotecommittee/senate.aspx>

The following email will be monitored throughout the meeting by someone who can assist with and alert the committee to any technical issues: remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us or call (603-271-6931).

Deb Martone 271-4980

Gary L. Daniels
Chairman

Senate Finance Committee

Deb Martone 271-4980

HB 1-A, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL, relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

Hearing Date: May 4, 2021

Time Opened: 1:00 p.m. **Time Closed:** 10:20 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Daniels, Reagan, Giuda, Hennessey, Morse, D'Allesandro and Rosenwald

Bill Analysis: No analysis needed.

Sponsors:

Rep. Weyler

Rep. L. Ober

Rep. Edwards

Rep. Umberger

Who supports the bill: Please refer to Public Hearing Sign-In Sheets.

Who opposes the bill: Please refer to Public Hearing Sign-In Sheets.

Who is neutral on the bill: Please refer to Public Hearing Sign-In Sheets.

Summary of testimony presented:

Maria Camerlengo:

- Ms. Camerlengo is the Director of the nonprofit Silverthorne Adult Day Program in Salem.
- This program is important but unaffordable to many seniors.
- The current rate for Medicaid reimbursement is \$54.44 per day. The cost to run the program is over \$100 per day.
- Due to COVID, her 2020 losses amounted to over \$85,000.
- The VA has increased their rates to \$113 per day, covering two days per week for Silverthorne's veterans.
- They need more help to keep the doors open.
- Medicare does not cover adult day care.
- Many seniors fall between the cracks.
- The monthly rate to run the program is \$1,700.
- They are looking for more help so that they may help more families.

Lori Breen:

- Please support the developmental services budget, and those that carry out the work.
- Her 22 yr. old son, Jake, is supported by Gateway Services in Nashua.
- He wants to be independent, have his own place, and be a valued member of the community. He is willing to work and have meaningful employment.
- Jake participated in an internship program through St. Joseph Hospital, "Project Search", learning transferable job skills. He is now working at Five Guys Burgers and Fries.
- A fully funded developmental services budget secured Jake's participation in Project Search. He is learning necessary skills to thrive as an adult. Full funding offers a good quality of life for Jake, as well as the remainder of his family. This allows Lori to continue to work full-time and secure the health care benefits she needs for her family.
- Fully funding is a major factor in the success of the community as a whole.

Lisa Beaudoin, ABLE NH:

- Fully support the budget for the developmental disability community, and go beyond it.
- Include full funding for a Medicaid adult dental benefit, which is listed as a "priority need" in the State office of Medicaid.
- Support the In-Home Supports Waiver, the Choices for Independence Waiver and the acquired Brain Disorder Waiver.
- Now is the time to reverse "penny-wise and pound-foolish" health care policies which significantly contribute to people with disabilities experiencing the poorest health outcomes of any identified population in America.
- If NH is interested in raising rates of employment as well as improving health outcomes and lowering health care costs for people with disabilities, we must finally provide the funds for fiscally sound and comprehensive oral health care in NH.
- RSA 171-A mandates the New Hampshire Legislature fully fund the adult developmental disability service system. People with disabilities must have the support they are entitled to in order to participate in the American dream.

Katherine Goodwin:

- Katherine is a Program Director at the Kimi Nichols Center in Plaistow.
- They support over 64 developmentally disabled adults both residential and day care.
- If these programs were not fully funded, it would be a great disadvantage to the people they are serving.
- Dental hygiene is not necessarily a top priority.
- The Kimi Nichols Center cares for the whole person.
- Southern New Hampshire area agencies continue to close their doors.
- The cost of caring for a person who truly cannot care for themselves is skyrocketing. Without these supports more people will end up in nursing home facilities, hospitals and in medical crises.

Forrest Beaudoin-Friede:

- Fully fund the developmental services budget, as well as a Medicaid adult dental benefit.
- Forrest receives supports and services through the DD Waiver. He is a Medicaid recipient as well.
- It is extremely important these priorities are funded.
- With these supports, Forrest lives independently in his own apartment. He works part-time.
- Oral health is an important part of overall health.

Gail Brown:

- Gail is the Director of the NH Oral Health Coalition.
- Include funding for a Medicaid adult dental benefit in support of responsible management of scarce resources. This request supports the opportunity for integrated health delivery of medical and dental care by funding the inclusion of oral health and dental services for adults into a Medicaid managed care program.
- This is the opportunity for New Hampshire to fund that benefit allowing for integrated cost-effective medical/dental care that supports: (a) dental treatment in the right setting at the right time; (b) readiness for employment and education of Medicaid expansion enrollees; and (c) the opportunity for successful substance abuse treatment and extended recovery.
- Over 100 medical conditions are associated with dental diseases and conditions that can result in increased chronic care costs, avoidable hospitalizations, and emergency room visits that provide antibiotics and pain relief but no dental repair, at a very high cost drawn from scarce Medicaid funds.

Amy Moore:

- Ms. Moore is the Director of Ascentria In-Home Care, which provides personal care services for over 400 people through CFI.
- Thousands of Granite Staters depend on the CFI program. These are medically vulnerable individuals ages 18 to 100 who qualify for nursing homes, but who choose to remain in their own homes. Home and community-based care costs a fraction of what a nursing home does.
- These programs have been underfunded for over a decade--so badly that New Hampshire ranks 50th in the amount of Medicaid funding it spends on home and community-based care.
- CFI is failing our most vulnerable citizens. Rates are so low that providers cannot hire the workers they need to care for these individuals. You can go to work at Market Basket, McDonalds or Walmart and receive a much higher wage than currently working for a CFI program.
- We hail these caregivers and health care workers as heroes during this pandemic, but we won't pay them a livable wage.
- Based on DHHS data, the entire CFI appropriation is rarely spent. This is not because the budget is too large; it's because agencies can't provide the services.

Funds are being left on the table that could enhance rates and eliminate gaps in care.

- "We're not asking you to put more money into the budget. We're asking you to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to put the money that is there into rate increases."
- We must strengthen our home and community-based care system NOW.

Matthew Houde:

- Matt is VP-Government Relations for Dartmouth-Hitchcock.
- The pandemic has highlighted gaps in our system that are designed to provide for people in their time of need.
- We need to rebuild a robust continuum of behavioral health care, supported by ancillary community services, that will help avoid institutional care by providing prevention and early intervention, integrate behavioral health with physical health, and ensure adequate crisis care is available and accessible when necessary--as well as transitions for patients after institutional care so as to avoid further hospitalization.
- Both the Governor and the House budgets recognized the 3.1 percent Medicaid provider rate increase authorized in the prior budget as well as the Medicaid Enhancement Tax and the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital Agreement reached by the State of New Hampshire and providers several years ago. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health requests the Senate Finance Committee maintain those provisions in HB 1-A.
- The line item for indirect and direct graduate medical education in the DHHS budget has been suspended for at least a decade. As the state's only academic medical center, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health is ever hopeful that New Hampshire will resume support for the work of training the medical workforce of the future.
- As a contractor with the state, Dartmouth-Hitchcock is concerned that their efforts to advance diversity, equity and inclusion could be undermined by the limitations imposed by the divisive concepts policy. This policy provision should be removed from HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL.
- DHHS entered into a contract with Unite USA to implement a closed loop referral system. This referral system will enable social service organizations to coordinate services, which in turn will allow for the efficient use of limited resources. The policy provision in HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL pertaining to the closed loop referral system should be removed.

Jeff Dickinson:

- Jeff is the Advocacy Director for Granite State Independent Living.
- CFI services Jeff utilizes are personal care services at his home in Franklin. He is 50 yrs. old and has a form of Muscular Dystrophy. He uses a power wheelchair, and at times a ventilator. He needs full help with all activities of daily living, such as showering, dressing and eating. These services allow Jeff to remain at home in his community.
- Please continue to make CFI a priority.

Arthur Gardiner:

- Fully fund the initiatives in the 10-Year Mental Health Plan adopted in January 2019. Folks in the Upper Valley in Hanover are particularly concerned that adequate funding be provided to permit the initiation and successful operation of a mobile crisis support facility in this part of the state. Legislative support is needed to ensure an adequate budget for that greatly needed treatment facility.
- Mr. Gardiner has a family member who is burdened with mental illness. He has direct experience with the serious consequences of the emergency room boarding crisis.
- The long wait in a very busy emergency room, unable to cope in a humane way with a serious attack of fear and paranoia, has contributed in a major way to delusional memories of trauma. With every good motivation, a system designed to protect and cure has a harmful rather than helpful effect. The emergency room boarding crisis has to be addressed and eliminated.
- The emergency boarding problem is the result of a much broader issue--an overburdened mental health care system stretched beyond its limit. There are not enough first contact crisis support facilities to provide needed treatment and to separate more serious from less serious mental problems. People sufficiently ill to visit an emergency room face the waiting time that so prominently evidences the system's lack of sufficient capacity. Those who finally reach a Designated Receiving Facility receive treatment from a caring and competent, but frantically busy staff. Many beds there are used by patients who could successfully be treated in transition facilities offering less intensive support but there are not enough available. And the entire care structure suffers from a wage structure that is really inadequate for its needs.
- We need to be aware that the spectrum of mental illness includes a large cohort of people just as impaired by illness as those suffering from melanoma or arteriosclerosis. An adequate health care system must be available to treat such illness every time and on time.
- Regarding "divisive concepts," our history is what it is--both its tremendous achievements and its difficulties. We must realistically fashion our future from our history--viewed from all perspectives.

Leslie Want:

- Leslie is the Vice-Chair of the Manchester Board of School Committee.
- HB 1-A and HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL do not meet the needs of Manchester students and taxpayers. While cutting corporate taxes it underfunds public schools in New Hampshire. Its contribution to public schools is last in the nation. We can do better than that.
- Manchester stands to lose \$5.2 million in adequacy aid, due to low enrollment and fewer free and reduced-lunch applications.
- The New Hampshire Retirement System increase leaves Manchester with a \$7.4 million shortfall, after receiving a tax cap increase from city aldermen, assuming they get that increase.
- Please fund education so our students can recover from their learning losses and go on to meet their fullest potential.

- Do not let the budget include HB 544. It would harm Manchester students, the largest and most diverse community in the state.
- Ms. Want urged the committee to pass HB 135 with Rep. Luneau's amendments.

David Chandler:

- Mr. Chandler volunteers at both the Community Kitchen and the Senior Center in Keene.
- Make funds available for disabled people deeply in need.

Owen Houghton:

- Increase adult care rates.
- Mr. Houghton's personal belief in the value of adult medical daycare comes from his past need for relief from caregiving. The Alzheimer's Disease diagnosis in 2010 of his wife, Norma, a 30-yr. RN at Monadnock Community Hospital, required his full-time attention for over six years. During those difficult years the Monadnock Family Services Adult Care Center Program came to his rescue, and provided quality medical, emotional and social care for both him and his wife. After she died, Mr. Houghton learned of the financial costs of her care at the Adult Care Center. Mr. Houghton wondered how they could have provided such support with a full staff and services on a daily reimbursement fixed rate of \$54.44.
- The inequity with nursing home rates nearly four times the current adult daycare rate is clear.
- An increase to \$75 per day is needed to keep our Adult Care Center open.

Kristine Stoddard:

- Kristine is the Director of Public Policy at Bi-State Primary Care Association.
- Bi-State represents 14 New Hampshire community health centers, which are located in areas of the state with limited access to health care services. New Hampshire's community health centers are nonprofit organizations that provide integrated substance use disorder treatment, behavioral health, primary care, and oral health services to nearly 120,000 patients, including approximately 20 percent of Medicaid expansion enrollees.
- In 2019 the Legislature and the Governor overwhelmingly supported a non-lapsing \$6.5 million appropriation to the State Loan Repayment Program because of the health care workforce shortage. This program provides partial payment towards educational loans of health care professionals in exchange for a commitment of three years to serve in a medically underserved area. The program is an invaluable recruitment tool for community health centers, community mental health centers, critical access hospitals, and other community-based health care providers.
- There should be approximately \$5.1 million of this 2019 appropriation still available. The Senate should ensure the funding be made available to expand access to this program as intended.
- The family planning program should have \$1.2 million appropriated so there is no gap in service due to impending federal changes Please provide General Funds so that no gap occurs.

- Section 34 of HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL, Reproductive Health Facilities, should be removed. It would require the physical separation of health care services, making the provision of these services by New Hampshire's family planning providers impossible.
- The "divisive concepts" language should be removed from HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL. Health care providers are required to provide culturally competent care.

Jennifer Smith, MD:

- Dr. Smith is a retired family physician who worked at community health centers for many years.
- Oral health has been neglected. It is very important.
- Strip out language that would prevent Planned Parenthood from being able to access state funds for their important reproductive health work because a small amount of their work includes pregnancy terminations, a necessary service.
- Divisive language is inappropriate for the state budget. We shouldn't want to stop good discussion of what our history is with respect to minorities. It is impacting public health currently.
- There is a much higher rate of maternal death from people of color. We need to discuss how we remedy problems from the past. That includes why they happened in the past.
- DHHS is the most important part of our budget in many, many ways, in terms of protecting people's health and wellness. In light of the recent pandemic, "back of the budget" cuts should never have been suggested.

Marianne Jackson, MD:

- Dr. Jackson is the Executive Director of the Gibson Center for Senior Services.
- They have a very vibrant senior center, and are asking support of the \$1.5 million appropriation in the budget for senior centers.
- They provide nutritious meals, transportation to necessary activities of normal living, and resources for older adults in the community.
- They are a family, a social, caring web of people who need and serve each other.
- Senior centers have stayed connected to their patrons even if the doors were locked due to COVID. It has been grueling.
- They have sponsored vaccination clinics for RSVP and Meals on Wheels drivers, Meals on Wheels recipients and other elders.
- They have provided computer literacy training and free laptops to give people a chance to connect with email, Zoom and Telehealth. They made phone calls, wrote cards, created online programs and made every effort to leave no one behind.
- All of this takes effort and funds. Last year and this year, due to COVID, the Gibson Center for Senior Services was unable to hold its annual fundraising events, resulting in a 5 percent loss. Grant funding has been almost completely diverted to emergency efforts creating an additional 10 percent loss of expected revenue.

Audrey Gerkin:

- Ms. Gerkin is seeking support of the developmental services budget. Her family and daughter, Lexi, is one of the 15,000 families supported by the area agencies. She receives assistance through One Sky's Family Support Program as she moves towards transitioning to adult services.
- Lexi is almost 20 years old and attends the Monarch School of New England. She has worked at the Dover Children's Museum. For Lexi to continue seamlessly to be a part of the community as she turns 21, it is very important the budget be fully funded, and the waitlist continue to be nonexistent.
- Fully fund the Medicaid adult dental program. Lexi will benefit from this service, as well. She has many medical complications, and a trip to the dentist for even only a cleaning, typically, means anesthesia will be involved. By funding the Medicaid adult dental benefit it would ensure this basic care will be covered.
- Also, they rely heavily on Lexi's two full-time home nurses. They know how lucky they are to have that coverage. However, their three overnight shifts remain uncovered.
- Work to strengthen home and community-based services.

Alyssa Antman:

- Alyssa is a patient of the Equality Health Center.
- The language in HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL defunds essential reproductive health care providers during a pandemic. Should it become law, thousands of Granite Staters, such as Alyssa, would be at risk of losing access to the critical lifesaving health care that they rely on.
- Alyssa shared with committee members her experience at the Equality Health Center with what turned out to be not such a routine change in her birth control. She was also given a cancer screening.
- She is forever grateful for the care she received at the health center.
- By requiring an unnecessary physical and financial separation, this budget is designed to force reproductive health care providers out of the program. Blocking funding for reproductive health providers could result in patients like Alyssa delaying or going without necessary care.
- Funding preventative services such as cancer screenings and birth control is good for the health of our communities and the overall economy.
- We should be working on expanding access to these services, not stripping them away.

Jennifer Bertrand:

- Please fully fund DD services and the Medicaid adult dental benefit.
- Her 21 yr. old daughter, Chloe, has been diagnosed with autism. She needs assistance with all activities of daily living. But with supports she has achieved monumental tasks such as attending high school, and was able to open her own shredding business during the pandemic.
- Raising Chloe has definitely presented some challenges. The family has had to navigate multiple systems.
- The support of the DD Waiver has helped their family stay together.

- As parents, Jennifer and her husband will continue to provide wraparound services for Chloe in her adult years, but they cannot do it alone. No one can.
- Hardworking families need the State of New Hampshire to do their part and fully fund DD services.

Heidi Marandos:

- Fully fund DD services and the Medicaid oral health care benefit.
- Heidi and her husband adopted two special needs children out of foster care. They receive supports from Pathways, the area agency. Their older son has a cognitive impairment and is medically complex. And he is loved by everyone in their community. He is transitioning to adult community supports, which will aid him in accessing employment and personal care. He will need a day program so that Heidi and her husband can continue to work.
- Their son also suffers from a congenital tooth enamel issue and needs comprehensive, ongoing dental work.
- Heidi worries that once her son reaches adulthood, shortages and supports for personal care needs and a lack of good oral health could lead to serious complications for the vibrant son who brings joy to everyone he meets.

Ken Barnes:

- Mr. Barnes supports the removal of school voucher language from the budget. It is a terrible idea. It discriminates against our public school children.
- Remove HB 544 from the budget; it doesn't belong there. It turns freedom of speech and thought on its head. It attempts to censor teaching in an effort to make our society more inclusive and fairer.
- Fully fund DHHS. Restore the back-of-the-budget cuts and the vacant positions.
- Support the Medicaid adult dental benefit, DD services, home and community-based care and community health centers. Those supports are very necessary and important for those who must rely on those types of services, as well as address health care disparities.
- It will be very costly for the state to defend the large number of lawsuits that will, no doubt, be filed against the constitutionality of HB 544. Training to make our society better would be illegal under HB 544. Take that language out of the budget.

Christopher Becker:

- Mr. Becker is a public charter school employee.
- The language of HB 544 limits academic judgment through censorship.
- There is a shift in the ways Social Studies and English are being taught.
- The wording of the bill makes it seem like teachers are teaching to hate others; to regard those of particular races and genders as inferior.
- It is suggested that the way history is being taught paints a picture of males and white people as apparently sexist and racist, and therefore inferior.
- Students are able to separate their personal identities from the historical deeds that we study much more so than adults. High school students are uniquely suited to grapple with challenging and complex historical topics in nuanced ways.

They actually don't need any interpretation or interjection from their teacher, since the primary sources speak for themselves. Students are able to perceive racism and sexism and where it exists in the historical record because they are intelligent and compassionate, not because their instructor instructs them to do so. They can recognize bias on their own.

- Western civilization has a long history of discriminatory practices and policies.

Maureen Meletis:

- Maureen is an advocate with the Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter, which currently supports 26,000 people living with Alzheimer's in the Granite State.
- Support the Governor's budget request to include critical increases in three Medicaid services under the Choices for Independence Waiver: personal care, homemaker and case management.
- Invest in adult medical day services by adding \$4 million to the state budget.
- Restore the Governor's funding for senior centers to provide essential services.
- Over 57,000 individuals in New Hampshire are a caregiver to a loved one living with Alzheimer's, creating a total of 82 million hours of unpaid care for a total value of \$1.5 billion.
- Eighty percent of older adults with Alzheimer's/dementia receive help with a daily personal care activity such as bathing, dressing and grooming. Unfortunately, services that could help these families like the CFI program have been underfunded for years with the health care workforce continuing to decline, and putting more pressure on a loved one serving as the primary caregiver.
- COVID-19 has played a significant role in adding additional strain on family caregivers due to the reduction of outside support and resources.
- Please provide our families with the support they need to keep their loved ones at home.

Ann Sanok:

- Ann has a 26 yr. old son, Alex, who has been supported by One Sky. He presently lives in a group home which is qualified to provide intensive behavioral services. These supports are needed for individuals who may engage in extreme behaviors, such as prone to aggression or violence, breaking things, excessive rocking or noises. Some individuals may be non-verbal or physically impaired. Some have extreme OCD or anxiety. They typically cannot tolerate much stimulation and need one-on-one supervision. They are unable to drive, many can't read or write, and most of the more challenged population will never work.
- Autism is a nightmare for many, the ones with the most profound disabilities. It's a life sentence for the child and the parent. It can be crippling physically, emotionally and financially.
- The number one issue of overwhelming concern to parents of autistic children is what happens when the parents die.
- Do not forget the forgotten. Support this budget and support the cause and lives of these citizens. They deserve the same liberties and freedoms but need a helping hand to live a life that is going to be very different, but which will be safe, meaningful and rich in its own way.

- New Hampshire can do better. Fully fund the developmental services budget, and learn more about this system and the unique, loving people you will help by doing so.

Devon Chaffee:

- Devon is the Executive Director of ACLU NH.
- The divisive concepts provision attempts to censor concepts that are used in diversity training to educate individuals on discrimination that people of color face.
- Diversity trainings are currently used by law enforcement, schools, state and local agencies and private employers. Most often they're used because these entities want to create workplaces and communities that are more equitable and inclusive.
- This language was taken directly from a federal Executive Order that was stayed by a federal judge and is now defunct. Identical language is now being pushed in a number of states across the country by D.C.-based think tanks.
- For schools, this provision is an attack on parents and communities to come together and address difficult topics.
- "Do you want this Legislature to start down the road of issuing state government mandates about what can and can't be discussed in our local schools? Is it the role of this Legislature to begin censoring local school districts? Or do you trust the local families and communities in your district to work with your local schools to best identify the way forward on difficult topics."
- This provision would bar the implementation of the recommendations made by the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement, Accountability, Community and Transparency, often referred to as "LEACT". These recommendations include annual training on implicit bias and cultural responsiveness.
- Agencies see these trainings as important opportunities for public servants to learn how stereotypes impact behavior.
- Remove the divisive concepts provision from HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL.

Rep. Tony Caplan:

- This budget cuts childcare and K-12 education. It defunds health care by close to \$100 million. At the same time it provides tax giveaways to corporations and the wealthiest in our state.
- The definition of "divisive concepts" in HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL is vague and general. It is guaranteed to increase divisions in our society.
- This is government weighing in on race and gender. These issues remain relevant today.
- The attempt to limit speech and conversation on these issues is unconstitutional, and infringes on free speech. It usurps local control on education. Most importantly, it interrupts the free flow of ideas that we depend on as free people. In a democracy it disrupts the "free marketplace of ideas". Remove this provision from the budget where it does not belong.

- Education freedom accounts would neither improve our education or increase our freedom. New Hampshire families for generations have relied on public schools to educate their children, and set us up for success as a society.
- Yes, there are problems with our public schools that we need to work on. But the answer is not taking money away from the public school system and sending it to private schools. This will inevitably increase local property taxes. This goes against our separation of church and state.
- New Hampshire's public school system is one of the finest in the country. Remove this provision from the budget, as well.

Lyn Schollett:

- Lyn is the Executive Director at the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.
- Maintain the \$1.26 million appropriation that was part of the domestic violence prevention program. This would adequately fund the lifesaving services provided by their 12-member programs to address domestic violence and sexual assault across the state.
- In the last two years the New Hampshire Coalition has provided free and confidential services to nearly 30,000 victims, including providing shelter to over 1,000 adults and children in their 12 emergency domestic violence shelters.
- During this same timeframe, they were forced to turn away over 1600 adults and over 740 children seeking emergency shelter.
- The state has worked tirelessly to respond to the opioid crisis, the lack of mental health services, and to improve child protection. We need to respond earlier and more comprehensively to those who suffer from domestic and sexual violence.
- The essential role our crisis centers play in responding to trauma is becoming increasingly apparent during the pandemic. Imagine the terror when being forced to shelter at home with the person who is continually raping and assaulting you. In spite of the pandemic, our emergency crisis centers have received well over 100,000 calls in the last year.
- They were forced to shelter victims in hotels during the pandemic, not an optimal place. They've worked with the courts to change the process for seeking a protective order. They've hosted support groups on Zoom. Advocates can now reach victims through text and chat.
- The long term effects of trauma manifest in many ways, including chronic and physical and mental health issues, depression, suicide, substance abuse disorders, and difficulty maintaining employment.

Cathy Spinney:

- Cathy is the parent of an almost 40 yr. old daughter, Kelly, who has significant developmental disabilities.
- Please support and add to the DD budget.
- Kelley needs help with almost everything, including all of her personal care. She uses a wheelchair and cannot speak. Cathy, 63 yrs. old, is still an active participant in her daughter's caregiving team. But it is getting physically harder for Cathy to do so. Imagine picking up your 40 yr. old daughter and carrying them around.

- We have a shortage of staff wanting to do this type of work. It doesn't pay well. Most do not receive health insurance. And it is too expensive to afford out-of-pocket.
- We need to offer these direct support individuals a wage that is competitive with McDonalds, and provide them decent health care insurance.
- Get rid of the divisive concepts language.

Lindsey Collins:

- Lindsey opposes the divisive concepts in HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL.
- The state has no business restricting important conversations about race, gender or antisemitism. These conversations are essential to building a multiracial democracy.
- Lindsey is a proud Jewish mother to a kindergartner, and was disgusted by Rep. Dawn Johnson, a Laconia School Board member, who on multiple occasions promoted antisemitism and white supremacy on her own social media with no repercussions.
- How is it going to benefit our children if we allow racism, white supremacy and hate to be upheld in our schools?
- Marginalized children need our support the most.

Carolyn Virtue:

- Carolyn owns and operates Granite Case Management. She provides elderly and adult services.
- She thanked those who worked on bringing the case management rate into compliance with federal law in this budget.
- Any other CFI services that do not have parity should be looked at.
- We have tremendous shortages in many of our services.
- PCSP is reimbursed at a higher rate.
- We need to address the access to care issues that are occurring in the CFI Waiver.

Kyle Worth:

- Kyle is the Executive Director at Nashua Adult Day Health.
- He strongly urges the increase of adult medical day reimbursement to \$75.
- Approximately 800 seniors attend adult daycare centers in this state. They have Alzheimer's, dementia, or need complete assistance with toileting or eating; strictly nursing home-level care.
- Even at that increased rate it is the best bang for your buck in terms of senior services. No other services can compare to that price. We are one of the lowest, if not the lowest, in the nation for adult day reimbursement.
- Many adult day programs have, and many will go out of business and no longer serve patients if there is not a raise increase. Hundreds of patients would be in need of nursing home-level care. That would roughly cost four times what adult daycare services cost.
- It's a great program that keeps people living in their communities rather than in institutions.
- The majority of Kyle's business is Medicaid.

Marianne Baxter:

- Marianne is the Executive Director of Merrimack Valley Daycare and Blueberry Express.
- Please reinstate the funds from the childcare scholarship budget to their previous levels.
- Low income families cannot afford childcare.
- The scholarship programs enable families to become self-sufficient, increase their wages, spend time in a work setting and increase their personal wealth to the point where they can get off all state assistance.
- Coming off the pandemic, this is just not the year to try and cut this budget.

David Doherty:

- David is opposed to SB 130's inclusion into the budget. It has not been afforded the same scrutiny that SB 193 in 2018 or HB 20 this session has received. It contains many problems that have not been addressed. Those bills included complex challenges, including constitutional, historical, educational, organizational, public, private and financial issues, that were identified as needing working. Experts testified about the intricacies of special education funding, transportation issues and many other issues that intersected with the plan of SB 193. A bipartisan majority of the committee ultimately decided the bill wasn't ready to be enacted as unresolved issues remained.
- All of those issues and more remain unresolved, and appear in SB 130.
- Such a complex bill should not be wrapped into HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL, with all its potential for unintended consequences, until a deep dive can be done into the specifics, as was done in 2018 and fix it.

Mayor Jim Donchess, Nashua:

- Restore the lost school aid which is resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic impact on the school aid formula for all public schools across New Hampshire.
- School aid for all cities and towns is projected to be down because there are fewer free and reduced lunch students, and a lower census in public schools. These numbers are artificially low due to the pandemic.
- The federal government has made all lunches free to all students due to the pandemic. So there is no longer an incentive for free and reduced lunch families to complete the paperwork necessary to qualify and be certified. School districts are working hard to get the families to complete the paperwork, but have been only partially successful.
- For this coming year, consider equalizing school aid for all districts to the levels they received in the current fiscal year, so that we do not suffer next year a big decline as the result of these pandemic impacts.
- A big reduction in school aid will result in a big increase in taxes. It will impact Nashua's tax rate by approximately four percent.

Linda Bundy:

- The divisive concepts in HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL would not be taught in diversity or inclusive trainings. Nor would they be a part of school instruction.
- The systemic racism that has evolved during our country's 400-year history does need to be discussed. The conversations are difficult but essential.
- This provision would block the ability for businesses and schools to discuss, explore and to think critically about our past, our present, and our vision about how to move forward.
- By rejecting this provision, New Hampshire can set an example for the country.
- Please remove the divisive concepts provision.

Maggie Fogarty:

- Maggie is with the American Friends Service Committee, and the grassroots Coalition for a People's Budget. They include faith leaders, advocates for health care, housing, environmental sustainability, racial justice.
- These budget documents fall short of what New Hampshire people deserve.
- Dream bigger and demand better when it comes to our state budget.
- We've been told we have to accept scarcity as the norm, and to beg for crumbs.
- What people are pleading for should be guaranteed in a wealthy state in a wealthy country.
- Affordable housing for everyone. High quality education for everyone, no matter where you live. Good health care for everyone, including mental health care, addiction treatment, disability and developmental services. Clean water and air for everyone. Public transportation in rural communities. Caring for our elders and our little ones. Keeping young adults in our state. Making sure our state workers earn a dignified wage and benefits, and that none of them are making less than \$15 per hour. New beginnings for people coming out of incarceration and non-police alternatives when there a crises in our communities so that we don't send so many people to incarceration.
- We will do this by raising taxes on the wealthiest New Hampshire people and corporations
- Our budgets are moral documents. Show that we really care for all communities in New Hampshire with a budget that invests in all of us.

Bonnie Dunham:

- Bonnie is the mother of a wonderful 40 yr. old son who experiences complex mental disabilities.
- Shawn is determined and a hard worker. He works at Wendy's and leads a full and active life. However, that life is not guaranteed. His continued quality of life is dependent upon the services he receives through Gateways Community Services.
- Shawn needs full-time one-on-one support. He receives that support from a direct support provider. That provider is committed to Shawn and makes far less than she could make in the private sector. The low pay for these providers has resulted in a shortage of staff, with devastating consequences for families with disabilities.
- The need for adequate staff and funding will become even more critical.

- Families desperately need the services that area agencies provide. High quality and cost effective services that change lives.
- Please include funding for oral health care for adults with disabilities on Medicaid.
- Fully fund the developmental services budget.
- Don't include the language for other unnecessary legislation such as SB 130 and HB 544. Don't let these bills hold the budget hostage. Let them pass or fail on their own merits.

Asma Elhuni:

- Asma is the Movement Politics Director for Rights and Democracy. She supports the "People's Budget".
- The inclusion of the divisive language amendment bans state agencies, K-12 schools, public colleges and universities and state contractors from learning about and addressing systemic racism and sexism, which is critical to overcoming barriers to a healthy and equitable community.
- If we can't talk about it, we will never address the issues that plague all of our communities.
- The language has a foreseeable chilling effect on our most important state-funded institutions.
- Why do all statistics point to a rise in hate crimes? Why are COVID-19 victims disproportionately people of color?
- Recently, two currently serving state representatives have used harmful antisemitic rhetoric on their personal social media pages and have claimed they were unaware of the antisemitic history of these items. Another state representative was accused of being Islamophobic.
- Remove this language from the budget.

Carol Conforti-Adams:

- Reinstate the Governor's budget which called for funding essential programs and staffing for DHHS. The House cut the budget for individuals living with disabilities and older adults.
- State revenues are far exceeding projections. Why cut these critical services?
- Carol is a quadriplegic and paralyzed. She needs morning and evening personal care services. Once placed in her power wheelchair, she can live independently. She works three part-time jobs, drives, pays state and federal taxes, and actively participates in her community.
- If there were no programs, Carol would have been placed in a nursing home.
- Increases do not provide living wages for workers providing daily home care services. These low wages have resulted in a 40 percent vacancy rate in home personal care workers, and a 60 percent turnover rate due to the competitive job market.

Steve Boczenowski:

- Steve's son, Jeffrey, took his own life eleven years ago. His life changed that day, and he is not the same person he was.

- Jeffrey was 21 yrs. old when he died; a 4th year college student. He struggled with mental illness. He had depression and substance abuse issues. He was a hard-working and responsible young man.
- Suicide is a rare event, but lots more people live with mental illness, and they struggle each and every day.
- If there were more robust treatment options, Jeffrey would be alive today.
- People with mental illness create a drag on our economy. People with untreated mental illness cost more money to treat their physical illnesses. And these people put a burden on law enforcement.
- Fully fund the 10-Year Mental Health Plan and look favorable upon mental health considerations in the budget.

Marcela DiBlasi:

- HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL contains far too many cuts at a time Granite Staters need more support from the government.
- As it currently stands, the budget will effectively be defunding abortion, guaranteed by Roe v. Wade.
- Remove all language of HB 544. It is a manipulative attack on the attempt to meaningfully educate about race and gender in our state. Fundamentally, the bill is rife with faulty logic. Learning about difference is not the same as teaching divisiveness.
- The provision is hugely influenced by Donald Trump's 1776 Commission, whose report was a response to George Floyd and the subsequent human rights protests.
- This bill isn't about free and open dialog. Please remove this harmful language from HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL.

Jackie Cowell:

- Jackie is with Early Learning New Hampshire.
- Employment related childcare allows families that qualify for their income to receive assistance affording the childcare they need to keep working.
- Approximately \$15.2 million would be removed over the biennium, specifically for that program.
- Demand has decreased for this program, so DHHS decreased the appropriation.
- This also supports those who are job searching to have childcare while they job search.
- These funds should be restored and level-funded. The current appropriation is far too low.
- This can really help families move ahead.

Shannon MacLeod:

- Ms. MacLeod testified on behalf of the Mayor of Manchester, Joyce Craig. She referenced the April 14, 2021 letter written by 13 city mayors of the state outlining the impacts New Hampshire's state budgets have had on municipal governments and local property taxpayers over the last decade.

- These budgets have resulted in significant losses of revenue to municipalities, contributing to property tax increases and delays in needed infrastructure improvements.
- There are always competing priorities, finite resources and a need to reinvest for growth in balancing a budget.
- In the last decade the state has failed to prioritize funding for local municipalities, resulting in heavy financial burden on local taxpayers, particularly retired Granite Staters on fixed incomes.
- One of the most significant losses in revenue to municipalities was the reduction in the Meals and Rooms Tax distribution. Since 2011, the local municipalities' share has been trending downward, while the overall revenue collected has increased by 60 percent. Manchester alone has lost out on over \$41 million over the last decade due to the failure of the state to live up to its commitment.
- Revenue sharing has been suspended since FY 2009, resulting in a loss of over \$300 million to municipalities and counties.
- From state pension costs to state aid grants, the State of New Hampshire continues to renege on its commitments to municipalities and local taxpayers.
- Cities and towns will continue to provide all the necessary services to residents.
- Please put an end to unsustainable downshifting.

Jim Doremus:

- Mr. Doremus is the CEO of the Concord Family YMCA, and the YMCA Alliance, comprising the nine YMCAs in New Hampshire.
- The "Y" is the largest provider of childcare and summer camps in the Granite State.
- The Alliance opposes the cut in the childcare scholarship program in HB 1. The program offers critical support for thousands of New Hampshire children. More than 2/3 of "Y" families benefit from this program.

Rev. John Gregory-Davis:

- Reverend Gregory-Davis represents the Meriden Congregational Church and the New Hampshire United Church of Christ Economic and Racial Justice Ministry Team.
- They support the "People's Budget".
- The major difference between HB 1-A, HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL and the "People's Budget" is their underlying morality.
- Budgets express the values of those proposing them.
- The proposed BPT and BET tax cuts will primarily benefit 76 large, multi-national corporations that do business in this state, while depleting state revenue and downshifting costs to municipal property taxes to fund essential infrastructure and public education. In doing so, it bails out the wealthiest and further adds to the struggles of Granite Staters.
- It is simply not true that we cannot do better.
- Remove the divisive concepts language from HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL.

Claudia Istel:

- Claudia is a retired public high school teacher, and adjunct to CCSNH.
- Funding for education is inadequate. The state is once again renegeing on its responsibility to provide an adequate education.
- Placing school vouchers in the budget is forcing Granite Staters to accept vouchers and their financial burden on school districts without the usual scrutiny a standalone bill would receive. Public school districts will have to provide all the same services at the same level of quality and standards with less money. Public schools cannot afford money taken out of their limited budgets. Local property taxpayers cannot afford to pay more.
- The divisive concepts language has no place in the state budget. Education, knowledge and thoughtful discussion are the ways to make change for the better. The intent of the language is to promote more division and hardship to the most vulnerable members of our communities.
- Please read the demands of the "People's Budget". It is a moral document. It will raise up the wellbeing of all.
- The proposed budget takes more from those who have the least to give.

Marcia Hayward:

- Keep the school voucher bill out of the budget.
- There has been a lack of vetting of the educational service provider in SB 130. There are no guidelines, certifications or licensing provided for.
- The scholarship organization would work on a commission basis. This is a conflict of interest, as there is a built-in incentive to approve any request.

Christina Darling:

- Christina has two sons who both receive the childcare scholarship. The program has allowed her to find full-time employment and keep her apartment. Her children are safe and cared for while she is gone during the day.
- Christina has a sister who had to leave her job as a nursing assistant due to childcare difficulties.
- Which costs more, the childcare benefit or state welfare?

Judy Lundahl:

- Judy spoke on behalf of the Monadnock Interfaith Project ("MIP") in Keene.
- MIP opposes HB 544 that seeks to prohibit teaching about systemic racism and sexism in public schools and state-funded programs. The intent of the language contradicts MIP's mission for community understanding and mutual respect.
- Collectively, we need to face head on the present racism and sexism, existing virtually in every system in our lives--education, criminal justice, housing, economy and religion.
- Instead of limiting discussion, let's commit to deep reflection, hard conversations, and changing practices and policies in all of our institutions to move beyond racism and sexism.

Kim Memmesheimer:

- Support the Governor's budget request regarding critical increases to three Medicaid services under the Choices for Independence Waiver: personal care, homemaker and case management services.
- Increase the budget by \$4 million for adult day services.
- Restore the Governor's funding for senior centers.
- Kim is an attorney in the area of elder care. She works with clients who either desire for themselves or their loved ones to stay in their homes. Choices for Independence is critical to that goal. Allowing people with dementia to stay at home longer will save money for the state in the long run. Funding home health care and personal services is vital to protecting the state's budget.
- All of these budget items provide vital resources to the unsung heroes for our communities--the unpaid family caregiver. Twice as many caregivers of those with dementia indicate substantial financial, emotional, and physical difficulties compared with caregivers of people without dementia. Dementia caregivers also report lower quality of life than non-caregivers, and they are more likely than non-caregivers or other caregivers to report that their health is fair or poor.
- Unfortunately, services that could help these families, like the CFI program and adult daycare, have been underfunded for years. The decline of the health care workforce puts more pressure on family members to become the primary caregiver. Adult day services and senior centers have also been underfunded, which reduces families' ability to keep their loved ones at home. This can result in needing to utilize long-term care services earlier than a family would like to, which can be incredibly expensive at both the public and private levels.
- In addition to the failure to fund these vital programs, COVID-19 has added strain to the burden of family caregivers. Many senior centers are not able to provide in-person services and programs due to limited staff and volunteers. Isolation over the past 14 months has hit those living with Alzheimer's and other dementia especially hard, and it has also been an incredible strain on family caregivers who have lost access to outside supports and other resources during this time.
- Please provide our families the supports they need to keep their loved ones at home.

Jeff McLynch:

- Jeff is Project Director of the NH School Funding Fairness Project.
- While the focus of the proposed budget is the provision of public services in each of the next two years, it is important to acknowledge at the outset that, when it comes to school funding, two fundamental injustices have been allowed to persist in New Hampshire for at least several decades. Despite a clear constitutional mandate, far too many of our children continue to face deep and enduring inequities in the educational opportunities available to them, diminishing not only their futures, but that of the Granite State as a whole. At the same time, enormous disparities in the property taxes paid by residents and businesses in different communities pose oftentimes barriers to economic security and development.
- Unless the committee acts to improve HB 1-A and HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL, the challenges before this state's public schools--and the students, families and

communities they serve--will be even more severe in the coming biennium. More specifically, according to data from the Office of the Legislative Budget Assistant and the Department of Education, due to the pandemic and the termination of additional aid and fiscal capacity disparity aid, state education aid is expected to fall, in total, by roughly \$90 million between FY 2021 and FY 2022.

- The versions of HB 1-A and HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL before the committee today failed not only to begin to rectify the school funding injustices that have plagued for so long, but also to respond appropriately to the difficulties created by the pandemic and by expiring law. While HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL in its current form does contain provisions intended to mitigate the effect on school finances of temporarily lower numbers of students completing the paperwork for free and reduced price meals, it only does part of the job, closing just \$17 million of the expected \$90 million gap in FY 2022.
- Although HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL identifies an additional \$100 million for use by the Education Trust Fund in FY 2023, it devotes those funds to a reduction in the statewide education property tax ("SWEPT"), rather than targeting greater assistance to those communities most in need.
- The committee is urged to strengthen the proposed budget significantly before it is considered by the full Senate. In particular, remove the proposed \$100 million reduction in the SWEPT.
- New Hampshire has long fallen hundreds of millions of dollars short, on an annual basis, of meeting its obligations to provide an adequate education to every child in the state. Solving the problem at hand is urgent and necessary, but the time to recast the system as a whole, so that all Granite State families are treated more equitably, is well past due.
- The NH School Funding Fairness Project stands ready to work with all Senators to build a more just school funding and property tax system in the year ahead.

Peter Miller:

- School vouchers, education savings accounts, divisive concepts are all included in the budget. Mr. Miller opposes same.
- This budget is inadequate for school funding.
- SB 130 is a major policy issue, establishing the most expansive school voucher program in the United States. It should be debated and considered on its own merits, not hidden in the state budget. In 2018 the Legislature decided not to implement a much smaller school voucher program after concluding many issues remained unresolved. The same issues remain unresolved in the much bigger SB 130.
- Public funds diverted from our public schools will be used for school vouchers. Public schools are highly accountable for meeting students' needs. Will voucher schools be as responsible?
- School vouchers have been used inappropriately throughout the country.
- Hiding major policy inside the budget, shielding it from debate, is a bad way to adopt major policy changes.

Rep. David Luneau:

- The impact of the \$100 million appropriation to the Education Trust Fund is felt most significantly in towns that have the lowest property tax rates in the state, and the highest property wealth. This just doesn't make any sense.
- A far better use of this appropriation would be to extend the equitable grants to school districts that were funded in the FY 2021 budget, and are offered by HB 623 and the amendments to SB 135. These grants have significant impacts for students and taxpayers in towns with the highest property tax rates, lowest property values and higher incidences of poverty. They provide meaningful school funding and property tax relief to cities like Manchester, and towns like Charlestown, Haverhill, Claremont, Pittsfield, and so many others.
- HB 623 has a fiscal note and a town-by-town analysis prepared by the LBA, making it easy to see how these equitable grants benefit our communities, students, taxpayers, and the state as a whole.

Ken Norton, NAMI New Hampshire:

- During Governor Sununu's budget address in February, he once again stated New Hampshire is in a mental health crisis. Fully fund mental health services as proposed in the Governor's budget.
- It's important we prioritize mental health funding to address the mental health crisis and the anticipated long-term impact of the pandemic it will have on mental health. That is evidenced by the significant increase in stress, anxiety and depression we are seeing across all ages. In particular, it is impacting children and young adults.
- During the last several months we have exceeded previous highs of the numbers of people being boarded in emergency departments, with 51 children being boarded on February 14, 2021, and a combined high of 89 children and adults being boarded during several days. Many of these people were experiencing suicidal intensity.
- Suicide continues to be a significant public health issue in our state. It is the second leading cause of death in New Hampshire for those ages 10-34.
- While Emergency Department Boarding is the tip of the iceberg relative to timely access to mental health care, there are long waits for outpatient treatment.
- We need to continue the work done in the 2019 Legislative session in fully funding the 10-Year Mental Health Plan by building out community-based services for mental health crisis response, step-up and step-down services, inpatient and outpatient capacity, supported housing, peer support, suicide prevention and substance use disorder services.
- NAMI NH supports moving ahead with building a new forensic hospital in order to end the practice of people with mental health conditions who have not been charged with crimes being transferred to the Department of Corrections and the Secure Psychiatric Unit. It opposes the back of the budget cut to DHHS currently contained in the House budget.
- As a member of the Governor's Law Enforcement Accountability, Community and Transparency Commission ("LEACT"), Mr. Norton urges strong support for fully funding Police Standards and Training as included in the Governor's Budget.

- Mr. Norton, as a member of the LEACT Commission, personally opposes the divisive concepts language currently included in the House budget. It would undermine much of the work done by the commission to address implicit bias and related recommendations for law enforcement, as well as the courts.

Rep. Mel Myler:

- Rep. Myler is the ranking member of the House Education Committee.
- That committee reviewed HB 20, which is almost identical to SB 130. Ultimately, they decided it was not ready to be considered by the House. They voted 20-0 to retain HB 20, based on the inadequacies of the language in the bill.
- Remove SB 130 from the budget. There is much opposition to it.

William Maddocks:

- HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL is woefully inadequate to meet the health, educational and other human needs of Granite Staters.
- HB 544 attacks widespread efforts to diversify the state. Enforcing this law will be a daunting task.
- There are hundreds of New Hampshire corporations carrying out inclusion work.
- "Drop a dime on diversity"--the new ad campaign?
- Mr. Maddocks gave examples of books which could be read for their "instruction" on divisive concepts.
- This is a crazy piece of legislation. It is unenforceable and offensive.
- Embrace the courageous conversations on diversity.

Kayla Montgomery:

- Ms. Montgomery is VP of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood New Hampshire Action Fund and Planned Parenthood of Northern New England.
- They strongly oppose the language of Section 34 of HB 2, requiring the physical and financial separation of services.
- There are currently 10 providers in the New Hampshire family planning program. With the requirement of a physical separation, the entire program would be dismantled.
- New Hampshire's family planning program provides funding for STD tests and treatment, birth control and cancer screenings, and breast exams and PAP tests. It does not and cannot fund abortion care. For patients to access abortion care, they must pay out-of-pocket or private insurance. It has never covered abortions.
- The dismantling of the program would affect statewide access to free or low cost services. These services are offered on a sliding scale based on income.
- This program provides care for the uninsured and low income, and provides coverage in rural areas.
- Please keep the New Hampshire family planning program whole.

Virginia Nossiff:

- Ginny is opposed to cuts in mental health services in HB 1-A.
- Implement a mental health system that works for all of our citizens, especially those in the North Country.

- In 2018 her son, a sophomore engineering student at UNH, came home one weekend and began to hallucinate, the beginning episodes of psychosis. It is a severe mental health condition. He was confused, frightened, and said things that made no sense. Having no other options they brought him to Memorial Hospital in North Conway, where he laid in a windowless room, on a mattress on the floor for 2.5 weeks, with no psychiatric care provided. There was no room at New Hampshire Hospital. Everyone told them it was someone else's responsibility, and that the system was broken. How had mental health care come to this in our state?
- Had there been a mobile crisis unit that could have traveled to their home, or had there been a facility that could provide the proper treatment, or had there even been staff that was trained in psychiatric care.
- For all those affected by mental illness and their families, oppose the cuts made to mental health services in HB 1-A.

Linda Mattlage:

- Linda strongly opposes the inclusion of SB 130 in HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL. This bill has many problems.
- Now, in the middle of a pandemic, is not the time to take on the major change of vouchers, also known as Education Freedom Accounts. School districts are already grappling with losing students due to the pandemic, demographic changes, and the doubling of charter school seats that we'll see shortly due to the federal grant Gov. Sununu accepted. This grant requires the state to double the number of charter school seats in the state by expanding some existing charter schools and adding some new ones. It is estimated that doing this will cost the state between \$57 million and \$104 million in the first ten years.
- If people are concerned about kids not getting what they need in public school, aren't charter schools created for just that reason?
- We should see how the expansion of charter schools works before spending additional state funds for a whole new parallel structure and funding system.
- Remove SB 130 language from the budget.

Jim O'Connell:

- Mr. O'Connell is a Manchester School Board member.
- The state's budget reduces educational funding by \$90 million. It is hard to understand and justify.
- Manchester is looking at a \$7.4 million dollar shortfall. Of the \$90 million being saved by the state, close to ten percent is coming out of Manchester.
- Manchester already spends less than practically every other school district in the state in terms of per student expenditures.
- The budget will have a very serious effect. It is not addressing some key issues.
- The Commission on School Funding spent almost one year looking at adequacy and how the state spends its money on education.
- Ten percent of the education budget will be spent on administration.

- The divisive concepts provision would become an embarrassment to the state should it become law. It would have a detrimental effect on the way we are viewed by other states.
- Take a second look at the funding for education in this bill.

Deborah Opramolla:

- As a disability organizer and advocate, Deborah opposes the language of HB 544. It is unacceptable. Disability justice requires everyone to realize having a disability is a normal part of life. What is not is being embarrassed or ashamed of family members that experience a disability. What is not normal is to become silent.
- The People's Budget demands investment in services such as fully funding the waitlist and dental care for those who experience a disability. This must be an investment that not only takes individuals off the waitlist and provides dental care, but allows them all the services an individual needs to partake in the community.
- Silencing our ability to have discussions on our culture, history, and training of our workforce sends the message we are not welcome in this state.
- Daily there are between 25 and 30 children waiting in emergency rooms in urgent need of mental health care.
- The State House budget closes the Sununu Youth Services Center, but where will these children go?
- Appropriations to solve the mental health crisis in our hospital emergency rooms must be developed. Fully fund DHHS, as it provides vital services to the disabled community. It is the moral and legal obligation of the state to continue to provide these services.

Charyl Reardon:

- Charyl is President of the White Mountains Attractions Association.
- Add back into the budget the funding the House eliminated in the Division of Travel and Tourism Development budget. These dollars are not only an investment in our future tourism economy, but supplement the state's overall revenue which helps fund some of the additional and important needs of our citizens.
- Tourism is the second largest industry and economic driver in the state of New Hampshire. Every dollar spent on marketing on our great state has a significant return,
- Governor Sununu's budget seeks to fund the Travel and Tourism Division by \$9.5 million approximately, each fiscal year. This is just shy of the 3.15 percent net income earned from the Meals and Rooms tax.
- Tourists to New Hampshire leave behind an economic impact that drives billions of dollars to the bottom line.
- Tourism supports essential services such as public safety, education, parks, roads and infrastructure. Without tourism, each household in New Hampshire would have to pay additional taxes every year to make up the difference that comes from visitor spending.

- According to independent researcher SMARInsights, in 2019 over 600,000 trips to New Hampshire were influenced by Travel and Tourism advertising campaigns, contributing \$371 million in travel spending, and collecting \$33 million in Rooms and Meals taxes from visitor spending--about 10 percent of the state's General Fund. Not only does the promotion drive traffic to this state, we have seen it achieve a return on investment of \$13 for every \$1 spent.
- We understand the need to adjust the budget to address the shortfalls caused by the pandemic. But consider the proven track record that additional spending has had on our businesses and taxes. Investing in tourism marketing yields positive results, and is not only critical to growth, but also to recapture and maintain our market share. The investment of \$9.5 million in tourism promotion for each of the next two years could shorten the tourism industry's timeline for recovery by 2-3 years.

Paul Reuland:

- Mr. Reuland is the Board Chair of Media Power Youth.
- Please reinstate the \$50,000 Department of Justice grant to Media Power Youth that has been removed from the proposed budget. Without the grant funds, our organization will struggle to continue to employ a full-time program manager, and be unable to service many youth organizations as it has in previous years.
- They intend to launch a new program this fall with the grant funds. It would teach social and emotional learning skills necessary for the healthy youth and social media. This particular program is preventative in nature, and designed to address issues in children of school age before they arise.
- Mr. Reuland has both a son and a daughter. His desire is to equip his children with the tools they need to handle the emotional challenges they will face as they grow.
- Changes in the technological landscape have been so vast and distinct, that it inhibits his ability to help his children.
- The social media they consume impacts the way in which they see themselves, the world, and their peers.
- It's critically important that programs like these continue to receive the support of state government.

Angela Pape:

- Angela had close friends experience racism. She shared a number of her friends' experiences with committee members.
- Having friends that were multi-cultured made Angela think she was not racist. Her own biases were very revealing to her.
- Racism exists consciously and unconsciously, and in all of our systems. We need to grapple with it and make real changes.
- HB 544 shuts down conversation. If we don't talk about a problem, how can we begin to solve it?
- It is uncomfortable for those of color to endure racism day in and day out.
- American ideals are for equality and opportunity. We must stand up for all of us.

Laura Pelletier:

- Interlakes Daycare Center in Meredith is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.
- They stayed open last year during the pandemic for families of essential workers.
- Forty percent of the children they care for are from low income families, to qualify for the state childcare scholarship.
- The need for families to access affordable childcare may be greater than it was pre-pandemic.
- The scholarship program helps families get ahead. They grow in their jobs and contribute to the economy.
- Please support this worthwhile program, which enable parents to get ahead.

Susan Richman:

- Susan has been a public school teacher for over 30 years.
- There is no accountability for home school instruction.
- Some students who receive an educational voucher will require special services--reading, speech, help with autism--not provided by their private school or in-home schooling. They are entitled to attend their local public school up to 50 percent of the school day, to receive those special services and more. But the \$4,000-\$8,000 of adequacy and differentiated funds allocated for that child's educational voucher would remain with the private school or the home schooling. That money could have paid for a paraeducator to work with a group of special needs students.
- Money equals the ability to offer services to students. That voucher student is removing money from the public school, while receiving services. After nine years, that child's public school will have lost approximately \$50,000 in adequacy and differentiated aid.
- Services are finite; they cost money.
- SB 130 needs more consideration to enable learning what happens when these educational dollars are taken from our public schools.

Susan Stearns:

- Please fully fund mental health services originally included in Governor Sununu's budget and ensure the budget you pass fully funds critically needed mental health services accessible to all Granite Staters.
- Yesterday there were 43 adults and 7 children experiencing a mental health crisis waiting in emergency departments for an inpatient psychiatric bed. We all know this emergency department boarding crisis has been going on, unabated, for over 8 years in our state.
- Susan has an adult child who lives with a serious mental illness. Two years ago while traveling and going through a recent medication change, her son was in crisis, fearing he would hurt himself. He asked her if he should go to the emergency room. Susan did not know how to answer her son.
- Susan has been her son's advocate since he was first diagnosed with an emotional disorder at age five. She has been a mental health advocate for over 20 years. It is what she does. But faced with her son in crisis--over 500 miles away, Susan

was terrified. She was afraid for his safety should he wind up boarding in the emergency department without an advocate at his side.

- Susan's son is 6'6", not violent at all, but highly sensitive and emotional. He had never had an inpatient psychiatric admission. She knew he would become despondent at being held for days with nothing to do, and likely very emotional. She thought he might prove frightening to the staff because of his size. She was afraid he could wind up injured by security or placed in the county jail.
- In one of the hardest decisions of her life, Susan told her son not to go to the emergency room. She was able to access family support for her son. He returned home the next day. They successfully managed his crisis with his doctor.
- We have not yet seen the impact of this pandemic on Granite Staters. Those numbers of folks waiting in emergency departments are just the tip of the iceberg.
- Increase funding for mental health services and ensure full funding for NH's 10-Year Mental Health Plan.

Louise Spencer:

- Louise is a co-founder of the Kent Street Coalition.
- Let the principles of the People's Budget guide the committee's work as you craft a budget that meets the needs of Granite Staters.
- On the House side of the budget process we saw a lack of transparency, and a process that failed to give the public real and substantial opportunities for meaningful input. The budget was dramatically amended after public testimony had concluded, with the public then not given any additional opportunity to comment on those changes.
- One day of public testimony hardly seems sufficient to speak to the myriad of needs and concerns that a fair and humane budget must address.
- The majority has taken the opportunity to advance social policies in formulating the budget.
- Remove SB 130 and HB 544 from the budget, and hold additional hearings for the public to comment, should you change the budget substantially.

Rep. Joshua Query:

- Representative Query is a Planned Parenthood patient. He knows how critical the services they provide are.
- Last year he was unknowingly exposed to the HIV virus. He was uninsured and unemployed. So many health care providers were closed due to the pandemic. But he knew he needed to see a doctor quickly. He received a telehealth appointment, with the first portion of the appointment via the phone. They let him share what happened in a way that made Rep. Query feel more comfortable. He was told he needed to go to the health center to receive an instant HIV test. He had indeed been exposed. They attempted to determine through blood work if he was HIV-positive. He immediately began post-exposure treatment, which slows the chance of contracting the disease. A 30-day supply of these pills cost over \$12,000, which Rep. Query did not have.

- Planned Parenthood worked with him and the drug manufacturer to ensure he qualified for the reduced cost. Rep. Query started the treatment at no cost to himself.
- The treatment lasted 90 days, which would have cost almost \$40,000.
- Rep. Query was tested monthly at Planned Parenthood. His third HIV test confirmed he was HIV-negative.
- Planned Parenthood saved Rep. Query's life. He continues to go to the health center every 90 days to maintain the HIV-negative status. For all these visits the health center charged him based on his income, instead of a flat rate.
- Rep. Query represents so many people in this state who lost insurance coverage or are under-insured. He represents people who face astronomical medical costs, who need to decide either the debt or the disease is the harder battle. He represents people who rely on community health centers or Planned Parenthood, who offer care based on a patient's circumstances for preventative health care.
- Remove the language about physical and financial separation requirements on reproductive health facilities to ensure trusted providers like Planned Parenthood can continue providing critical and lifesaving care to Granite Staters like himself.

Leah Quimby:

- Leah is another former patient of Planned Parenthood.
- Planned Parenthood has been there for Leah when she needed them for many stages of her life.
- There were times in her life when she had no health insurance and needed birth control. She received regular reproductive health care checks.
- All the health center workers were kind and helpful. Leah trusts Planned Parenthood to listen and support her.
- Blocking funding for Planned Parenthood and abortion providers could result in patients facing interruptions in necessary care.
- Make it more possible for people like Leah to receive the care and important cancer screenings they need.

Anthony Poore:

- Anthony believes issues of diversity, equity and inclusion are the defining issues of our time. If we are to achieve the hopes and aspirations that came before us, we must work collectively towards comprehensive, enduring, equitable solutions.
- There is undeniable evidence that diversity, equity and inclusion in business and government leads to heightened levels of innovation, customer service, citizen engagement, and long-term economic growth.
- When legislative leaders create environments where everyone is encouraged to bring their differences to work and school, organizations and governments thrive.
- If your goal is to achieve social and economic justice for all, then diversity, equity and inclusion efforts are some of the most powerful tools legislators can leverage to improve the upward mobility of historically marginalized populations.
- The divisive concepts amendment is an attempt to ban racial and gender equity efforts in government by silencing any conversation or effort that recognizes the existence of white supremacy or systemic racism. It refers to unifying racial

justice and equity efforts as "divisive" and prohibits any training that would create anguish or guilt, with the intended effect of shutting down all conversation about race and gender in government, by government contractors, or in publicly funded schools and universities.

- As a parent of two multi-racial school age children, Anthony can personally appreciate the challenges children of color face when confronted with the consistent and pervasive bigotry of low expectations, and appreciate a community where all students have the chance to gift New Hampshire with their potential and fulfill their destiny.

Allan Reetz:

- Mr. Reetz represents the Hanover Co-op Food Stores and Auto Service Centers. They stand opposed to HB 544 and its inclusion in the state's budget. They are aligned with the 240 other businesses and entities that signed the anti-HB 544 letter sent by New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility. Those businesses represent over 60,000 workers and are some of the largest employers in the state of New Hampshire. A look at the list of signatories will show a vibrant portion of the state's economy that this legislation will turn away.
- The unwieldy intent of HB 544 seeks to legislate against corporate free speech. Proposed restrictions extend to subcontractors and vendors, all because they do business with our state or were hired to help.
- The provision contains directives that, at first glance, seem benign, but onerous upon a second reading. It begs the question, "What successful legislation is this modeled on, and what problems does it seek to solve?" Supporters might state that its language seeks to unite, not to divide. Yet, how is that not evident to business leaders across the state?
- We live in a civil society where constructive debate is encouraged and necessary. The effort to legislate away the risk of hurt feelings or the assignment of blame will not work in business any better than it would in the New Hampshire House and Senate.
- Let us never silence the past or prevent discussion of our future. The wise voice of New Hampshire history still has much to teach us.

Steve Ahnen:

- Steve is President of the New Hampshire Hospital Association.
- New Hampshire's hospitals and the health care heroes who work in them are driven by a mission to provide high quality health care and improve the health and well-being of the communities they serve. That is true every day, and that resolve has certainly been demonstrated throughout the past year, however hospitals have been challenged as they have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The pandemic has challenged us all and, working together, we believe we can emerge from this crisis, but it will take great care and diligence to ensure that New Hampshire does so and that we are able to serve citizens across the state and help everyone return to what we all hope will be a much more normal, vibrant and healthy New Hampshire.

- It is absolutely essential that we have a robust and effective Medicaid program that helps to ensure recipients are getting the right care, at the right time, and in the right place. Resolution of the many challenges just a few years ago over the Medicaid Enhancement Tax and the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital payment program was an important step forward to creating stability in the Medicaid program for patients, providers and the State of New Hampshire.
- We are very appreciative that the Medicaid rate increases that were included in the last budget are maintained in the current budget before the Senate.
- There is no more urgent and pressing priority than addressing the behavioral health crisis facing New Hampshire. We appreciate the tremendous amount of work and effort that is being done in this area up-to-date, but it is imperative that this budget, as well as other legislative and regulatory efforts, collectively design a plan forward and articulate how it will be funded and carried out in the months and years ahead.
- The 10-Year Mental Health Plan was built as a blueprint for rebuilding a behavioral health system across the full continuum of care and services for those suffering a mental health issue. The ongoing crisis of patients waiting in hospital emergency departments until they can be transferred to New Hampshire Hospital or other appropriate settings for their care continues to be all too common. The waitlist is truly a symptom of a broader, systemic problem. We simply do not have adequate resources across our entire system to care for those with a mental health issue.
- This is our time to resolve these issues once and for all, so that patients with a mental health issue can get the care they need and deserve, when and where they need it.
- We are very concerned about the addition of non-budgetary policy provisions that were added to HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL during the House phase of the budget, specifically that which seeks to incorporate HB 544 related to divisive concepts. Our hospitals and the dedicated caregivers who serve their patients every day strive to do so with the utmost care and respect for every patient. And they work to foster a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion within their organizations to attract and retain a workforce to deliver the highest quality of care to all of their patients. Inclusion of HB 544 will have a chilling effect on the important work that is occurring throughout the health care system to better serve all patients. We ask the Senate to remove this provision.

Ed Robbins:

- Mr. Robbins is opposed to the language of HB 544 that was incorporated into HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL. It is a tenuous connection that such legislation has to the state's budget. Including the language of HB 544 in HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL is just a way to bypass a process in which support is not widespread.
- New Hampshire prides itself as the "Live Free or Die" state, the place where we believe that the individual is responsible enough to do right and not be burdened by state supervision, and yet here we are discussing just that.
- Others have testified regarding the potential and financial effects that may befall the state should the divisive concepts language be included. I'll appeal to that

Yankee pragmatism and simply say that this legislation is a solution in search of a problem, and as such it should not be included in HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL.

Sarah Aiken:

- Sarah represents Community Bridges, one of ten area agencies that support those with developmental disabilities and acquired brain disorders and their families.
- Please support the developmental services budget.
- Sarah is the parent of a young man with a disability. Her son was served by the disability system for years. The services and skills he learned within the system were nothing short of miraculous. Diagnosed on the autism spectrum, in addition to having cancer and a rare genetic diagnosis, Sarah was unsure of her son's survival, never mind if he would work or go to school. Through Community Bridges he learned to walk, talk and be social.
- Sarah's son no longer needs services. He is no longer on Medicaid and he will never be on the waitlist. Not every child, however, has the same experience. Some need services throughout their lives.
- The services provided by the area agencies and their vendors allow for inclusion, skill building, access to the community, work, and all that encompasses a good life.
- We attribute the system's successes to the many thousands of wonderful people who work with the individuals that we serve, and the training they are able to provide staff.
- As a state contracted agency, it is for this reason that Community Bridges encourages the committee to review the divisive concept language, and how that language would change the availability of the trainings they provide.
- We've come a long way since the closure of the Laconia State School and Training Center.
- Fully fund the developmental services budget, reconsider the divisive concepts language, and increase wages for those who are front line workers, such as case managers and direct support personnel.

Karen Trudel:

- Fully fund the mental health budget as put forth in Governor Sununu's budget.
- Medicaid reimbursement needs to increase so we can retain staff.
- The mobile crisis units need to be fully funded and implemented, especially in the North Country. Karen has utilized the mobile crisis units a number of times, and has found it to be an extremely useful tool.
- Peer supports need additional funding, as well. Again, staffing is an issue.

Rep. Amanda Toll:

- This budget irresponsibly cuts the Business Enterprise Tax, the Business Profits Tax, the Rooms and Meals Tax, and the Interest and Dividends tax resulting in revenue decline for the state. Consequently, there will be massive cuts to social services and education. Costs will shift to towns, likely forcing them to increase property taxes, which will disproportionately harm folks on fixed incomes.

- The people of New Hampshire deserve a state budget that invests in the health, education, recovery, opportunity and vitality of our communities.
- Rep. Toll endorses the NH People's Budget, which was drafted by a coalition of social justice organizations. This should be the budget before you today. The People's Budget demands we invest in our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, in real economic security, in our state workers, in adequately funding education, in our young adults, in people with disabilities and their families, in our children, parents, caregivers, elders, and in comprehensive health care including but not limited to mental health, reproductive health and dental health.
- To have the language of HB 544 in this budget is an abomination. The proposal is absurd. We must reckon with systemic injustices in order to move forward towards a compassionate and just future together.
- As one of the many citizens of New Hampshire who has utilized our reproductive health care centers, I also find it utterly shameful that this budget will be used to strip funding from necessary reproductive health care centers. Patients visit Planned Parenthood for many reasons; primarily, it is to access affordable health care. Stripping funding from Planned Parenthood and other reproductive health care centers will impact low income folks the most, and will have negative impacts on health outcomes for the most vulnerable.

Joan Ascheim:

- Joan is testifying on behalf of the New Hampshire Public Health Association.
- Part III of SB 104 sought funding for a community health worker at each public health network in the state, but it was removed. The deployment of community health workers was a recommendation from the Governor's COVID-19 Equity Response Team as an effort to lift up some of our most vulnerable citizens during the pandemic and beyond.
- Please add \$1.2 million to the state budget to support a community health worker in each of the state's 13 public health networks. There is a large body of research now relative to community health worker effectiveness in improving health outcomes, reducing health care costs and bridging gaps in health disparities.
- SB 140 sought funding for several programs for families including community collaborations, family connections, home visiting and family resource centers to eliminate funding gaps for these programs. As families continue to recover from the economic and social effects of COVID and strive to balance the ongoing daily challenges of work, school and parenting, these programs are more important than ever.
- Please add \$1.37 million to the budget to fully fund these primary prevention programs for families.
- The language of HB 544 seeks to prevent New Hampshire state agencies, contractors, and schools from teaching concepts relative to diversity, equity and inclusion. At a time when our country is trying to confront the injustices of systemic racism, hate crimes, and health inequities that have been illuminated through the pandemic, this bill is dangerous and does not reflect the values of the people of this state. If we in public health cannot educate students, public health professionals and policy makers about such inequities, we only perpetuate them.

- Remove the language of HB 544 from HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL.

Rep. Joe Shapiro:

- Do not fold SB 130, education freedom accounts, into the state budget.
- Starting with a \$90 million shortfall from the last biennium and extending to COVID-related decreases in enrollment and resources, and the unpredictable effects of planned increases in charter school placements, the funding picture for our local school districts is very much in flux and very much in jeopardy.
- Now is not the time to add a new and largely unknown element into the mix.
- Education freedom accounts will further eat into our school budgets.
- Keene schools will lose more than one-half million dollars during the next five years.
- The full future damage to our public education system through unintended consequences is largely unknown.
- Education freedom accounts are like a time bomb. Once you put them in place and the fuse is lit, we will have little to no ability to limit the damage to our schools.
- Further erosion to public school funding will expand the disparity between wealthy and poor communities.
- In Keene, where the property tax rate is five times the rate of the wealthiest New Hampshire communities, taxes will likely increase. This will further the burden on homeowners and increase the obstacles to new economic development. Others will be forced to make drastic cuts.
- Leave education freedom accounts for another day.

Gina Balkus:

- Gina is CEO of the Granite State Home, Health and Hospice Association.
- Direct DHHS to increase home health provider rates for the Choices for Independence program to realistic levels.
- The current reimbursement rates fail to cover the cost of reasonable wages, travel time, mileage, supervision, training, background checks, benefits and other business costs. Because of this, home care agencies can't fully staff all the services that CFI enrollees need.
- People who are lucky enough to get care generally get about 65 percent of the home care services they are authorized to receive.
- It is close to impossible for new enrollees to receive any services at all.
- This means that vulnerable adults and elders who qualify for nursing home level of care are at risk of illness, injury and neglect in their own homes.
- Between 2017 and 2020 DHHS underspent the CFI home health services line between \$11 million and \$15 million each year. These funds could have been deployed to rate increases so that home health agencies could offer competitive wages or benefits. That is what DHHS did several years ago in the Title III-B and Title XX programs funded through the Older Americans Act. The Department should do the same for CFI, and bring the rates to parity with the Title programs and close to Medicare cost levels and close to private market rates.

- We believe there are sufficient funds in the line to significantly increase rates and reduce gaps in care.
- The Department's lapse should not be borne by vulnerable adults and elders.
- CFI enrollees are in a desperate situation. Many providers will no longer participate in the CFI program.
- Amend HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL or attach a budget footnote to direct DHHS to make meaningful rate increases for CFI home health providers so people can get the care and the support they need to live in their homes.

Mary Schiavoni:

- Mary is speaking on behalf of Adimab, LLC, a global biotechnology company headquartered in Lebanon. Adimab strongly opposed HB 544 before it was rightly tabled in the NH House of Representatives, and they continue to firmly oppose its back door incarnation as the divisive concepts amendment to budget bill HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL.
- This amendment tramples on First Amendment rights to free speech, represents government overreach, and will impede the ability of New Hampshire businesses to attract and retain top talent.
- Adimab has a highly diverse workforce of discerning scientists, engineers and researchers for whom inquiry and debate are essential drivers of success in the workplace and in their industry.
- Adimab competes with research centers across the country and the globe to recruit the best talent to New Hampshire. This is a challenge that will become immeasurably harder if our state is viewed as a regressive and intolerant place to live and work, as is sure to be the case if the divisive concepts amendment is passed into law.
- Vote down the divisive concepts amendment, and in doing so maintain New Hampshire's standing as a business-friendly state that supports inclusive and empowered work environments unencumbered by restrictive legislation.

Rep. Tim Horrigan:

- Rep. Horrigan represents Durham, the home of the University System. He sees no point in merging USNH with the Community College System at this time.
- Durham is also the home of the Small Business Development Center. The House increased the SBDC's funding from \$50,000 to \$450,000 over the biennium, but the increase was merely an increase over the Governor's original proposal.
- The House Finance Committee took \$400,000 from the Travel and Tourism budget, which shows how shortsighted state government is.
- The budget contains some very small tax cuts, which will supposedly attract businesses from other states. No one is going to move their business here from out of state, however, just because our business taxes went down a fraction of a percentage point. The secret to growing our economy is to grow the businesses which are already here. The tax cuts in the budget will accomplish nothing aside from lowering state revenues, which is not a good thing.
- The budget includes an abortion "gag-rule" provision, which would almost certainly shut down every reproductive health facility in the state.

- Craft a budget that the House, Senate and the Governor can sign.

Heather Carroll:

- Heather represents the NH Alliance for Healthy Aging.
- Investing in home and community-based services is a cost effective way to build infrastructure to support older adults who live here.
- New Hampshire needs a home and community system that works for all of us.
- Currently, there is a patchwork of services which leads to significant gaps and unmet needs. The result is that too many older adults end up in more expensive institutionalized care, when they truly want to remain in their homes and communities.
- There are cost effective measures the Senate can take now to improve home and community-based services. Support budget requests that include critical increases to 3 Medicaid services under the Choices for Independence Waiver. They are personal care, homemaker services and case management.
- Presumptive eligibility should be fully funded.
- The gap in adult medical day services should be looked at, and raise the daily rate to \$75. This investment of state dollars over the biennium is a cost effective way to keep older adults in their communities longer. It also encompasses those who truly need to have caregiver support for folks who are still in the working world.
- They would like to see the \$1.5 million for senior centers to support services for older adults struggling with mental health and social isolation. During the pandemic, senior centers helped many seniors with telehealth services and with the social isolation for those folks who live alone.

Guy Chapdelaine:

- Guy is a member of the NH AARP/Capital City Taskforce.
- CFI is a cost effective program for seniors or adults with disabilities.
- In a typical year a significant portion of the funding for CFI goes unused because the number of visits made falls far short of those funded. This has occurred repeatedly over a number of recent bienniums.
- In FY 2020, between 31 percent and 45 percent of the funded visits were not made for skilled nursing home visits, home health aide short and long visits, personal care visits and homemaker services. This shortfall resulted in at least \$11 million in appropriated funds not being spent and lapsing to the General Fund.
- This money should be used to increase the availability of services that can help people remain safely at home
- One of the primary reasons for the shortfall in the various types of visits is the low level of reimbursement funded by the state through Medicaid. It's extremely difficult to hire staff to perform these services when the rate of reimbursement is so low in comparison to compensation paid for far less skilled positions in other businesses.
- Greater transparency in rate setting is needed to ensure that rates cover the cost of services to be performed.
- Ensure that rates for services for seniors and adults with physical disabilities are set comparably to rates for services to other groups receiving similar services.

- Expedite eligibility determinations for these services so that seniors and adults with disabilities receive their services in a timely manner.

Kate Frey:

- There are several harmful provisions included in the House budget including: 1) abolishing the Enforcement Division of the NH State Liquor Commission, jeopardizing the safe operation of alcohol establishments; 2) banning dissemination of certain "divisive concepts" like unconscious bias related to sex and race that are critical to addressing public health disparities across New Hampshire; 3) defunding essential health reproductive health care providers during a pandemic; and 4) eliminating \$50 million and 226 positions from DHHS in "back-of-the-budget" cuts that could limit our ability to overcome COVID-19 and respond to future public health crises.
- New Futures' Five-Point Plan for a Health State Budget is comprised of 5 initiatives, if fully funded in the NH state budget, will go far to address issues resulting from the pandemic, overcome health disparities for historically marginalized groups, and prevent adverse health impacts on NH's children and families. These initiatives include: 1) supporting critical local and state public health programs and services; 2) ensuring access to health care by supporting a strong health care workforce; 3) supporting efforts to sustain and grow behavioral health services; 4) sustaining investments that help mitigate and prevent childhood trauma to help Granite State children and families thrive; and 5) protecting children's behavioral health programs and services to ensure coordinated and timely care for Granite State youth.
- Investments are needed in community health workers, the state's health care workforce, youth prevention programs and family supports.
- Include \$1.2 million over the biennium to support a community health worker position in each of the 13 public health networks.
- Increase funding for the student loan repayment program or make unspent SLRP funds in the current budget nonlapsing.
- Fully fund DHHS' request of \$220,000 per year to fund tobacco cessation services directed at youth trying to quit vaping.
- Restore \$1.37 million for family resource centers and primary prevention programs within the department.

Emily Johnson:

- Emily is the state manager for Save the Children Action Network.
- They oppose cuts to employment-related childcare funding in the state budget.
- Employment-related childcare funds grant assistance to hard working families with young children. Parents are income-eligible for the assistance benefit by having the ability to continue to work and earn a living while their children receive high quality care and education. Without this assistance, New Hampshire children would miss out on that high quality care and foundational education, while their parents would likely miss out on earnings or career advancement, and would be forced to stay home with the kids.

- Employment-related childcare assistance is essential not only for child wellbeing but for working parents and their ability to earn money for basic costs for survival.
- It's not unlikely for income-eligible families to wind up qualifying for increased state aid assistance when denied a childcare scholarship.
- More families will require childcare assistance in the coming years.
- Provide at least level funding for employment-related childcare in FY 2022/2023.

Megan Tuttle:

- Meagan is President of NEA New Hampshire.
- Refrain from including a school voucher plan like SB 130, which downshifts costs onto local taxpayers.
- Pass a public school funding formula that is more equitable and accounts for the pandemic effects on school budgets.
- Remove entirely and without replacement the harmful language of HB 544.
- Regarding SB 130, do we really want to make things worse for local property taxpayers? To date, there has been no financial analysis completed from the LBAO on this bill.
- We appreciate our teachers for many things, including their ability to spark our young peoples' minds with critical thinking skills; the language from HB 544 would stifle that.
- Our country is at a crossroads with respect to racial and gender equity and inclusion. These discussions in the classroom and in the workplace are tools we use in this country to combat systemic racism and gender inequality.
- This budget can be a better representation of the priorities the people of New Hampshire hold.
- Support a strong public education for all by funding our schools and striving to be a more inclusive and just community.

Michelle Veasey:

- Michelle is the Executive Director of New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility.
- The divisive concepts language in the budget is grossly out of step with New Hampshire's workplace culture. It will have a chilling impact on our workplaces and on our state. It is a bill that is intended to hold us back and maintain the structure which will allow racism and sexism to flourish.
- These 243 businesses value their employees, and are not afraid to do the hard work to erase the structural racism and sexism in our organizations, schools and businesses.
- Many of the state's largest employers have signed on to the testimony submitted.
- We strongly urge you to protect the state, its people, and its businesses from this dangerous and damaging legislation.
- Diversity helps us to approach challenges with an innovated lens.
- An inclusive environment helps all employees to share their ideas and know they are valued.
- This language will make New Hampshire less attractive to potential employees.
- Remove HB 544 from HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL.

Esperanza Rivera:

- Support the developmental services budget in HB 1-A and the people that carry out the work.
- Ms. Rivera has family members and friends who have been supported by the Moore Center for several years. The Moore Center is the lifeline to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- If you don't fund this program it would threaten the essential services that people with disabilities rely on to maintain their health and independence.
- Fully fund the developmental services budget.

Michael Kiess:

- Michael testified on behalf of Vital Communities, whose top priority is housing.
- Make a significant investment in the Affordable Housing Fund.
- Currently, there are not enough places to live to meet the needs of our seniors, working families or our youth.
- The current market is not meeting their individual and shared needs.
- This is a shared challenge. We cannot solve this alone. We need to enable and create solutions.
- Your leadership is essential. Public investment in the Affordable Housing Fund leverages private capital and town and federal resources. Investors can help shape a new housing future for our communities based on low interest funds available from the Affordable Housing Fund.
- It is time to act together.

Janet Ward:

- Janet is opposed to SB 130, a bill which should have serious independent review.
- By directing public tax dollars to a private scholarship organization rather than requiring taxpayers to send their tax dollars directly toward home schooling, religious or private schools, which taxpayers might not wish to support, the bill's sponsors are trying to avoid our state constitution's prohibition regarding the use of public tax dollars to support schools.
- New Hampshire's scholarship organization will be working on commission, and can be paid up to ten percent of every dollar it provides. This is an obvious conflict of interest.
- The bill's legislative oversight commission can only recommend legislative changes should it detect a problem.
- Your attention to these concerns is essential.

Douglas McNutt:

- Douglas is the Associate State Director for Advocacy at AARP NH.
- We need to do a better job providing home care services. We need a broad based array of services.
- The adult medical daycare program allows working people to keep their loved ones at home, which is critical.

- With the Medicare rates being as low as they are, many of these services have closed. It not only removes the service from Medicaid residents, it also takes it away from private payors who also need the same service.
- DHHS has suggested the presumptive eligibility be suspended. Rather, it should be fully funded. We need to get these services to people who need them in their homes as quickly as possible to avoid unnecessary institutionalization.

Mary Roberge:

- Fully fund all services for everyone receiving waived services.
- It is less expensive to allocate funds for adequate home care than to pay for institutionalized and/or nursing home care. Home care provides a healthy and safe living environment for those receiving services under the Choices for Independence and disability waivers. The current pandemic emphasizes the importance of ensuring New Hampshire residents, especially the elderly and physically disabled adults, continue to receive services and home care that provides for their wellbeing, safety and independence.
- It is important that services for our seniors and adults with physical disabilities are transparent in the rates that are established. It is equally important our seniors and adults with physical disabilities become eligible for these services in a timely manner.

Jonathan Weinberg:

- Mr. Weinberg is a member of the Concord School Board. The board opposes both SB 130 and HB 544.
- Most of the burden of the NH Retirement System has been shifted to the local taxpayers. Municipalities are carrying the brunt of these costs.
- We are not serving the needs of New Hampshire or the needs of its students with HB 544. If we want to attract young people to this state, HB 544 would not be the mechanism to retain these young folks. Remove this language from the budget.

Rev. Jason Wells:

- Rev. Wells is the Executive Director of the NH Council of Churches.
- Adopting a budget is essentially a moral and value-based process, rather than a strictly fiduciary one.
- Reject the HB 544 provisions placed into HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL. The sins of racism, sexism, genocide and more continue to wound our nation. Many of our churches are already having the needed, honest conversations on these and other difficult topics.
- Our budget must prioritize public education for all.
- The Legislature should adopt the "People's Budget".

Nancy Vaughn:

- The American Heart Association asks for the Senate's support in funding two of the most impactful ways to help improve health. Fund a food assistance program to help under-resourced and struggling citizens, and provide tobacco cessation recourses to help youth stop vaping and adults trying to quit smoking.

- New Hampshire's food assistance program is a lifeline for thousands of Granite Staters, including children, the elderly and people with disabilities, who at times struggle to put food on their tables. A modest investment of \$200,000 each year will create a dollar-for-dollar match of state funds to Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits spent on healthy produce at farmers markets and participating NH grocery stores. This will help increase food access, make diets healthier, and lessen chronic illnesses. The money spent on fruit and vegetables produces economic benefits for local farmers and communities, as well.
- One third of youth in our state are using tobacco products and many are now addicted to nicotine, caused largely by electronic cigarettes. The DHHS Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program has prioritized a cessation initiative specifically tailored for those under age 18. More people, including those on Medicaid, can be helped to quit smoking with additional funding. An investment of \$300,000 per year would support programs and help youth and adults quit tobacco and live healthier lives.
- Please remove a provision included in the House budget which repeals the enforcement authority of the NH Liquor Commission. The section abolishes 21 enforcement positions within the Division of Liquor Enforcement.
- Pull the language concerning divisive concepts.

John Willis:

- Remove from the budget Section 330 in HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL, "Propagation of Divisive Concepts".
- School curricula and staff training programs would become chaotic.
- There is no mechanism for defense against false accusations, and no provision for due process.
- The provisions contain expensive requirements for state agencies, contractors and subcontractors.

Matthew Gerding:

- Matthew is a middle school teacher and city councilor in Somersworth.
- Cities and towns throughout New Hampshire have been losing funding from the state year after year. These repeated gaps in funding are causing dramatic rises in local property taxes, as well as harmful cuts to essential services in our public schools.
- NH schools and communities have advocated for decades the state is not performing its constitutional duty to fund public schools and yet they continue to be neglected.
- The Commission to Study School Funding examined equitable and adequate solutions to the school funding crisis and drafted a proposal that would alleviate the burden on local taxpayers and help provide a stronger education to students. These proposals were intended to be incorporated into the state's budget.
- New Hampshire's education funding system remains extremely regressive, utilizes inaccurate funding models, is providing fewer resources to needier

communities, and produces decreased educational outcomes for less-advantaged communities.

- Most importantly, the commission determined that the responsibility for these faults is due to the lack of funding by the state.
- The commission's recommendations will result in a true and complete reduction in local property taxes for the vast majority of New Hampshire's cities and towns. The commission's proposals are glaringly absent from HB 1-A and HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL.
- Local property taxes are forced to rise in response to anemic state funding.
- The state needs to take dramatic efforts to reform the ways in which we fund public education.

Teresa Moler:

- Teresa is in remission from mental health problems.
- Providers and mental health facilities need funds from the government to provide treatment.
- On occasion, Teresa finds herself in need of emergency treatment. She wants to see 24/7 access to mental health treatment for all.

Rep. Mary Heath:

- This is not a budget that is good for New Hampshire citizens. It will result in higher property taxes.
- Do not promote SB 130. Vouchers are wrong for New Hampshire. They undermine public education and will put additional burdens on our education trust funds. Existing states that have adopted voucher programs are fraught with problems, fraud and lack of accountability for student learning.
- Remove the \$1 million SWEPT reduction and apply those dollars to our local schools based on the 20/21 formula. The SWEPT reduction is frivolous and benefits only property-rich towns, and leaves districts like Manchester significantly underfunded. It will result in higher property taxes, and the money that is spent will not benefit our schools.
- Incorporate SB 135 into the school funding portion of the budget to address the impact of COVID on the enrollment and free and reduced lunch cuts that cities and towns have experienced.

Deborah Nelson:

- Ms. Nelson is a member of the Coalition for a People's Budget.
- As a prior school teacher, she dealt with multiple complex issues such as slavery, native removal, reconstruction, the many amendments to the Constitution, economics and equality, civil rights and women's movements. Students came to understand the complexity of America's past. She never had a student damaged by a greater understanding of racism and sexism. The language of HB 544 does our young people a great disservice. Her students care deeply about this state and this country.
- Remove the language of HB 544 from the budget.

- Please support public education and educators by funding public schools adequately.

Sonia Prince:

- SB 130 is bad for our public schools.
- New Hampshire tends to spend the least amount of money on education. We need to change that.
- It will cost our state a ton of money.
- Planned Parenthood has helped many women who are in need.
- Regarding HB 544, history can't be whitewashed. This is just an attempt to try and stop talking about racism. It is real and exists everywhere. We need to educate people to check their biases.

Janet Perkins-Howland:

- Ms. Perkins-Howland is an OB GYN and is passionate about issues surrounding reproductive equity.
- When times are the toughest, birth control and preventative care become even more essential.
- When people find themselves poor, their lives chaotic, when they're struggling that's time they need help with reproductive care.
- She is a big believer in preventionism. Pap smears and mammograms can catch small problems before they become big or deadly.
- We need to fund these programs to help people take care of themselves and prevent more deadly and costly interventions in the future.
- Don't undercut funding for reproductive services in New Hampshire. It is good public policy.
- Passage of HB 544 would effectively suspend inquiry and dialog to improve patient outcomes based on bias.

Maris Toland:

- Ms. Toland is a resident physician at Dartmouth-Hitchcock.
- She is concerned about the physical and financial separation link, and how it affects the ability of providers to deliver the care our state's low income, uninsured families rely on.
- As a provider of reproductive health services, she is repeatedly told by patients how much they rely on family planning to receive cancer screenings, birth control, STD screenings and testing and treatment, as well as patients who have lifesaving diagnoses. Without that service, they could have lost their lives.
- This budget disproportionately marginalizes people in communities. It is poor public policy planning.
- What purpose does the divisive concept language serve? It sensors speech on things that have value. We should be expanding our language, our understanding and our discourse on systemic racism and gender inequality.

Dr. Marie Ramas:

- Dr. Ramas is President-elect of the NH Academy of Family Physicians.

- She has witnessed firsthand the challenges communities face as they strive to achieve the American dream of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- Adding non-budgetary language into the language of HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL removes the focus on the important work our state faces as we emerge from the pandemic.
- She is deeply concerned her ability to practice medicine will be affected in an unethical manner in caring for both rural and urban patients.
- Community health centers in which she works receive both state and federal funds.
- Allowing divisive concepts into the budget will interfere with clinicians' ability to provide appropriate care that recognizes and validates the lived experiences of our patients.

Carrie Duran:

- She is a single mom of three articulate, smart, young ladies.
- Her youngest daughter, Katie, experiences Down Syndrome. She currently receives in-home supports through their area agency. The help of this amazing program helps Katie access her community safely and engage in developing skills she will need to live her best life. Carrie is very grateful for this program.
- Fully fund developmental services in the budget.
- Equity, inclusion and diversity is talked about in the Duran household. Having a child with a disability makes you become an activist and advocate from the moment your child is born.
- Speak up about injustice.
- Remove the divisive concept language.

Abigail Carey:

- Abigail is a current patient at the Derry Health Center.
- She accessed Planned Parenthood to secure safe birth control measures.
- She felt welcome in the health center. They helped her apply for affordable health care insurance.
- Experiencing the compassionate care of Planned Parenthood helped her refer them to others.
- By requiring providers who offer abortion services to physically and financially separate abortion services from other types of care, makes it more difficult for people like Abigail. This requirement is unnecessary and impossible for providers to comply with. It places undue burden on someone looking to make the best option for themselves.
- Without Planned Parenthood people would go without essential care, just because it is too expensive.

Carolyn Dever:

- Divisive concepts is not a New Hampshire idea. It is not a New Hampshire solution to a New Hampshire problem. It is identical to bills across the country that mirror the previous administration's efforts to censor conversations about complex issues of history, identity and equality. As employers across the state

have made clear, the proposed legislation is regressive and, if passed, will do significant harm to New Hampshire's economy.

- Her son, Noah, is eager to learn all about the world around him. He is one of only a few Black children in his school. It is crucial not only for him but for all of his classmates to find ways to understand each other, to work together, to build our future together, in the context of their differences.
- We strengthen our communities when we recognize our differences and use them to work together. We are stronger together; we are weakened when we fear each other. When New Hampshire gives voice to all of its citizens, the state stands ready for future prosperity.
- Remove the divisive concepts bill from the state budget. Demonstrate that freedom of speech still means something to the "Live Free or Die" state.

Michael Clafin:

- Michael is the Executive Director of HEAD, a nonprofit housing developer in Littleton.
- There are obvious moral and ethical issues contained in the language of HB 544, as well as potential, economic ramifications to our state. It should be debated based on its language and its merits. It should not be attached to or included in the budget.

Lucas Meyer:

- Lucas is Chair of 603 Board, which looks to give voice and power to young working people in this state.
- He supports the "Save Our Granite Stages" Act. This is a new fund dedicated to some of the smaller music venues in our state which have been exceptionally hard hit by the pandemic, and face a long road towards recovery.
- A lack of culture and loneliness plague New Hampshire's young workers.
- This bill will bolster our live musical venues and bolster the cultural sector in our state, which is a huge economic driver. It is also a tool in our state's toolbox to attract and retain young people.
- Keep this fund intact in the budget.

Deb Howes:

- Mrs. Howes is Vice-President of the Nashua Teachers' Union and a member of the Executive Council of the NH AFL-CIO.
- School vouchers or as some might call them, "Education Freedom Savings Accounts", do not belong in the state budget. New Hampshire has a longstanding problem with underfunding its public schools, as witnessed by numerous lawsuits, i.e., Claremont and Claremont II. Currently, the state is being sued by a group of school districts lead by Con-Val. The voucher program envisioned by SB 130 does nothing to solve the problem of the disparate ability to fund an adequate education through local property taxes. In fact, it exacerbates it. Vouchers would drain \$70-\$90 million of limited education funding over three years to help students who are already in private schools or being homeschooled.

- A school like Ms. Howes' school in Nashua with 300 students, could potentially lose a classroom's worth of students in 2.5 years, and the funding that goes with them.
- With students leaving public schools under a voucher program, local districts will have to choose between raising property taxes or looking for program cuts that seem like extras such as arts, music, gifted programs, or consolidating classrooms or schools. This will force already struggling public schools to eliminate those markers of a quality education that every parent values most for their children.
- If adopted on its own or part of the budget, the voucher program envisioned in SB 130 would further disadvantage all public schools and do the most damage to those in property poor towns and cities.

Thomas Gaumont:

- Divisive concept is an undemocratic concept. If allowed to stay in the budget, it could set a precedent for creating an authoritarian form of education.
- John Dewey, who is viewed by many as the father of modern democratic education in the US, argued that curriculum should be relevant to students' lives, and include open discussions of current events and develops critical thinking skills. Most teachers support and advocate for continued democratic educational practices.
- Do you want to support democratic educational practices in our state or would you rather support an anti-democratic step as manifested in the divisive concept provision of the current budget being developed?

Coral Hampe:

- Coral is President of the Timberlane Teachers Association.
- Schools in our state are compared to schools nationwide and worldwide. Having a voucher program hurts the students who attend public schools. Even as funding is drained away, overhead costs remain. Districts will be forced to make cuts to programs like art, music, languages or sports.
- If we reallocate funding away from public schools, how do we give our students a well-rounded education that can compete worldwide?
- Do not include SB 130 in the budget. Let's give our public school students the best opportunities possible. Public dollars should stay with public schools.

Kate Hilton:

- One thing Kate loves about New Hampshire is our commitment to local control. HB 544 is the state government's direct control of the speech of state employees and contractors. We cannot live freely if we cannot speak freely.
- This legislation is not who we are. Its language is not from New Hampshire. This same bill is being proposed in ten other states.
- There are real budget implications and costs to the state to enforce this legislation, and to defend the lawsuits that will be filed on First Amendment grounds; to pursue litigation against those who will be morally justified to defy it.
- It is the ultimate irony that we need look no further than the language of HB 544 to see what state-perpetuated systemic racism and sexism looks like.

- Kate's son, Hans, expressed the importance of being able to speak openly with his teachers about systemic racism and sexism.
- HB 544 cancels New Hampshire's culture of local control, and our business communities' diversity, inclusion and equity efforts. It also cancels our teachers and students' freedom of speech.

Gary Cahoon:

- Mr. Cahoon is the owner and administrator of Friendship Manor in New Ipswich.
- DHHS has suggested the suspension of the presumptive eligibility statute be continued for another two years. Presumptive eligibility is a process to fast track eligibility for home and community-based services for those in desperate need of these services, who upon review are deemed highly likely to qualify for them.
- Studies in several states have indicated presumptive eligibility does not increase costs, but rather reduces them overall by reducing unnecessary nursing home placements.
- The median time to determine financial eligibility for the state is 65 days, and in many cases require more than 90 days. This means elderly and disabled citizens go without services when they critically need them. Further, the time to determine eligibility has been significantly and negatively impacted by the pandemic. The entire process has become much more cumbersome.
- Please allow presumptive eligibility to work as intended.
- Unmet needs are not easily determined in residential care because services are not authorized until a client finds a bed. Mr. Cahoon receives 2-3 referrals per week for the 3-4 beds he has per year.
- The rates are too low. As a result, people are often forced to go without services, or are unnecessarily sent to nursing homes. These CFI rates need to be addressed.

Mary Carlson:

- Mary is in support of the developmental services budget.
- Her family is connected to the Gateway Services agency in Nashua. Her adult daughter has developmental disabilities, being on the autistic spectrum, and suffers from mental health challenges including significant anxiety. She is bright but learns painfully slow. Teaching her requires a great deal of patience and knowledge. Anything she learns needs to be broken down into chunks.
- Mary's daughter benefits from her interactions with her service providers, who work very hard for very little pay. In recent years it has not always been easy to attract and retain staff to provide her services.
- During the early months of COVID visits were minimal and Mary's daughter suffered.
- If funding is eliminated or reduced, those who receive services will suffer the most, including our most vulnerable individuals.
- Fully fund services for those who cannot advocate for themselves. Our society will be judged on how we treat our most vulnerable individuals.

Julie Hilliard:

- Julie has spent the last 30 years struggling to keep the teeth of her 30 yr. old son, Cameron, healthy. He is a difficult case and requires an OR certified dentist. The Hilliards, therefore, are unable to seek low cost or income based dental services. These specialists are hard to find and do not accept payment plans. Many times they are forced to travel out of state to find him dental care.
- Every couple of years Julie starts the process of coming up with funding and grants to pay for the procedure. Payment has to be guaranteed before an appointment will be booked, and then it is usually several months to get an appointment.
- Cameron routinely goes without dental care for long periods due to the difficulty of getting care and finding a dentist willing to take him as a patient.
- What New Hampshire provides for Cameron currently under Medicaid is to wait until he has painful abscesses, and then have the teeth removed on a strictly emergency basis. The dentist can't even clean the teeth or do any other dental work during the procedure. That means Cameron would suffer unbearable pain indefinitely, and have his teeth pulled out one by one until he has no teeth. This is shameful and seems deliberately cruel.
- New Hampshire Medicaid can't even authorize exceptions for special cases like Cameron.
- Cameron has many challenges but Julie wants him to have healthy teeth for as long as possible, and she works very hard to make sure he will.

Elaine Fagga:

- Elaine has a son who is transitioning this year into adult services, and she is very concerned about the staffing issues in Sullivan County. Pathways has been unable to staff her son's in-home support program for the last 3 years. When his school program ends in August, Elaine is afraid her son will end up back home with her full-time. She will be forced to place him in a residential program, as she is unable to take care of him full-time.
- Elaine has a ward that is currently living out of state, and will turn 21 in January, and transitioning into adult services as well. Her ward lives out-of-state as there are no programs in New Hampshire to meet her needs.
- The lack of housing services for people with dual diagnoses are nonexistent for the most part in this state.
- Pathways has helped with financing for Elaine's van, transportation being a vital service.
- Currently, no adult members of Elaine's family have access to dental care.
- The low funding reimbursement rates of CFI impacts the ability to hire and train staffing. New Hampshire needs to step up their Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Regan Lamphier:

- Regan has close ties with the disability community in New Hampshire. Her son, Ethan, had a major stroke when he was 3 years old. That is when they qualified for a direct support, which allowed her to keep her job, insurance and her home. She supports her family financially.

- Ethan had serious developmental disabilities, and was medically complex. He passed away suddenly at the age of 8. If he had reached adulthood, their need for home and community-based service would have continued.
- Regan cares deeply for those with disabilities, including many of our seniors.
- Currently there is a dire workforce shortage in this state. The Choices for Independence program is essential to keeping these individuals in their homes and out of institutions.
- The pandemic has exposed the gaping holes in our state safety net. It doesn't benefit anyone when individuals fall through the cracks. There are children and families in dire need across New Hampshire. The crisis is real and growing.
- We have a moral and legal obligation to fully fund DHHS. If the department is funded properly, our families and communities will be stronger and more successful. That means a brighter future for everyone in New Hampshire.

Courtney Lawson:

- Courtney is currently on CFI. There is a major issue with staffing. She is receiving only half of her services, due to the low wages being paid.
- These rates must be raised.
- They deserve to be able to live independent lives.
- At the age of 40, Courtney does not want to go into a nursing home.

Kayla Berry:

- Kayla works for Courtney Lawson and assists her on the night shift. Courtney is a complete quadriplegic. Without the CFI funding there would be no way for Courtney to get out of bed. There have been times previously when Courtney has been left in bed for 4 days.
- Courtney is unable to access mental health services.
- Kayla has, at times, worked 2 weeks straight, morning and night as there were no other available aides. She has a full-time job elsewhere as well.
- Courtney's brother even helps out with her personal care.
- Many of the caregivers Courtney has had in the past left due to low wages. They've gone to work at McDonald's, which pays more.

Louisa Ledbetter:

- Louisa is the parent of a 22 year-old with developmental disabilities who is supported by Pathways.
- Finding support staff who have experience with or understanding of the disabled across a wide spectrum of disabilities is difficult when the highest hourly wage is much less than a school paraprofessional. The job itself is much more difficult than a paraprofessional as they are responsible for those they support out in the community as well as in the home. They are entirely on their own when they provide this support. They should be entitled to a wage competitive for what they do. Parents entrust them with the physical, social and emotional support of their child, as well as helping to build functional life skills.
- It is hard to get the best quality when the wage offered is so low. When you find dedicated staff who are willing to train and learn how to best care and support for

your child, you want to be able to keep them. A fair wage is one way to do that. Not being able to offer a fair wage also significantly reduces the pool of candidates from which we can choose support staff for our children.

- Fully fund the developmental services budget to allow for a more competitive wage for support staff to work with the disabled in New Hampshire.

Annie Johnson:

- If this budget becomes law, thousands of Granite Staters like Annie would be at risk of losing access to critical, lifesaving health care.
- For thousands of people, under-insured or uninsured, there are no other viable options waiting in the wings to do this work.
- The average hospital ER, in a pandemic, cannot take on the task of providing these thousands of people with routine testing, early intervention for HIV exposure, checkups and providing birth control and free contraception. These people will either take on astronomical debt or go without care.
- Preventative health care saves taxpayer dollars at a rate of one dollar spent for every seven dollars saved.
- Planned Parenthood serves a huge community, literally 72 percent of the entire family planning program, and their services throughout New Hampshire ensure that anyone can access birth control, cancer screenings, checkups and STD testing.

Dr. Sue Kim:

- As a psychologist, Dr. Kim is obligated to speak up against HB 544 as it violates three of her profession's ethical principles and code of conduct.
- Her ethics code requires her to operate with integrity. For decades, psychology research has found that systemic racism, institutional, interpersonal and internalized racism all exist, and need to be discussed and addressed in order for people and our society at large to heal. If HB 544 passes, it would be illegal in the state for psychologists to present accurate, honest and truthful information about racism and sexism, information supported by empirical data.
- Dr. Kim's ethics code also requires her to uphold justice. If HB 544 passes, psychologists in this state would not be permitted to offer workshops, training and seminars designed to help people understand how unconscious bias operates, strategies to cope with psychological distress and discomfort related to discussing racism, and ways to become resilient rather than avoiding these important topics. Avoiding discussing something often makes things much worse than just learning how to talk about it.
- Dr. Kim's ethics code requires her to operate with respect for people's rights and dignity. As a psychologist, she must be aware of and respect people's differences, and attempt to eliminate her own biases. HB 544 would outlaw the training she would need in assessing and monitoring her hidden biases.
- Remove HB 544 from the budget bill.

Nirav Kapadia:

- Mr. Kapadia is a person of color, a father and a husband. He is a cancer doctor who serves in an underserved, rural, almost entirely white population in the North Country.
- To defund Planned Parenthood would devastate his patients. Many of them have their cancer screenings and detection through Planned Parenthood.
- Racism hurts white people as well.
- Black people are twice as likely to be ignored when having a heart attack, severe back pain or a migraine. To be able to talk about these things lets us understand these things. If we can understand these things, only then can we fix them.
- HB 544 is government overreach at its worse. How will it be funded?

Rev. Dr. Gail Kinney:

- Dr. Kinney represents the Economic Justice Team of the United Church of Christ.
- A state budget conveys what we value. The budget the House delivered to the Senate is not a People's Budget, nor a moral budget. The House does not value health and human services based on the proposed back-of-the-budget cuts to an absolutely essential state agency. The House doesn't seem to value safe and accessible reproductive and related health services for women in New Hampshire. The House doesn't value providing needed adequacy support for public schools. But, apparently, the House does give priority to shifting adequacy costs downward to local property taxpayers, with the low income and municipalities being hurt the most.
- HB 544 calls for the censoring of public agencies, state contractors and public educational institutions when it comes to training or teaching about systemic racism or sexism and implicit bias, all things which are still among us. This language has no business in the budget trailer bill, and in New Hampshire statute period. It is breathtakingly vague, it calls for censorship, it mandates that certain topics can be discussed only "without endorsement". It calls upon the Department of Administrative Services to become the "thought police". It is incredibly frightening in its scope, and is completely unworkable. If this language becomes law, it will become a national story, and it won't be a positive story for New Hampshire. It will bring shame and economic consequences.
- Crafting HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL is not a game. Remove this language entirely from the budget trailer bill.

Alex Koutroubas:

- Dennehy & Bouley have many clients with strong interests in the state budget.
- Fully support long-term supports and services under DHHS.
- We also need to support our state's hospitals, assisted living homes, senior centers, Meals on Wheels, and our fellow citizens with disabilities.
- They are strongly opposed to the divisive concepts language in HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL.
- Dennehy & Bouley represents ACEC-NH, an engineering firm in this state. Many of these clients work for state agencies. New Hampshire's engineers oppose contractual language that is unreasonable and overly burdensome to comply with.

- We will put important state contracts at risk if we go down this road. Remove the language from HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL.
- Restore the state aid grant program for our cities and towns.
- Fully fund DOT's budget to continue to keep the traveling public safe.

Dr. Clare O'Grady:

- Dr. O'Grady is a family medicine resident physician. She practices medicine in a rural clinic. Bucolic landscapes, fresh farm produce and neighborly waves unfortunately mask the health care disparities her rural patients face.
- In the past year of her practice, Dr. O'Grady has listened to her patients' stories about newfound poverty as the few local businesses in town closed their doors. She's witnessed retrogression in their mental health at the hands of pandemic-induced seclusion atop the physical seclusion they already possess simply by being a rural resident. Most tragically, she has watched them decline lifesaving treatments because they can no longer afford the gas to drive the forty miles to specialty clinics.
- New Hampshire is a state that is comprised of an expansive and proud rural population that already struggles with access. Ultimately, limiting availability to medically-proven, safe, family planning programs, as is suggested in HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL, will further widen this gap. This will be true especially for Dr. O'Grady's rural patients, for rural women, and for herself.
- This goes against the very autonomy that this state boasts and promises to its residents.

Janine Lademan:

- Janine is opposed to any cuts to the mental health services budget. She has a 19 yr. old son and is desperately seeking mental health services for him. He has been experiencing delusions and has been hallucinating. She was able to admit him to the ER department, but he needed hospitalization. He stayed in the ER for one week while his mental health unraveled. He was finally transferred to a stabilization unit in Manchester, where he was placed on medication. After five days he was sent home.
- Janine cannot get an appointment for her son until mid-July. His medication is running out and she can't find anyone to manage his refills.
- In the meantime she has called every psychiatrist, counselor, hospital and counseling center in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Most places don't bother to return a call.
- Just today they went back to a different ER but her son was turned away. Apparently, her son is not psychotic enough for hospitalization and services.
- What will it take to get help? Where are the services in this state? The lack of mental health resources in this state is shameful.
- Dedicate and prioritize funds and resources to provide mental health services to those who so desperately need it.

Anna Shultz:

- Anna is a home health social worker and a private geriatric care manager. She supports the proposed rate increases for the CFI program. Many of the individuals she assists are in dire need of more hours to meet the assigned hours by the state.
- Should she report CFI to the state Adult Protective Services program for neglect? How can she help these patients get the services they need? If they received the appropriate level of care, most of them would be able to stay in their own home.
- The rate increase would help secure consistent staff, have a regular schedule of living and ensure the type of help needed to the CFI recipients is available day, night and weekends. The proposed rate increases are needed to make sure people on the CFI program are assisted in their home in order to stay in their home.
- Support the rate increase to CFI in this budget as it will directly impact your constituents and is the economically, sound choice over more costly institutionalized care.

William Rescsanski:

- Property-poor towns like Charlestown will not receive adequate aid for school funding.
- Property-rich towns like Newington pay \$2.70 per thousand dollars of property value for school funding. Charlestown pays \$24.89 per thousand dollars of property value as it is a property-poor town. This is nine times more than Newington's.
- Charlestown spends so much money on school funding that it always looks for ways to cut or constrain municipal spending. The town cannot grow or do fun things like hire a recreation director. It struggles to maintain existing assets. Residents like William cannot afford to retire in Charlestown.
- Every year Charlestown has at least 20 properties with delinquent taxes. Ten were sold last weekend.
- It is hopeful the Con-Val lawsuit will solve these problems.
- Charlestown's tax rate would be much lower if the state provided adequate funding for students.
- Please increase aid for school funding for property-poor towns with low equalized value per pupil. HB 623 would have done this. Include this bill, or something like it in the state's budget.
- According to the NH School Funding Fairness Project, 4.4 percent of the SWPT reduction flows to 20 most property poor towns in New Hampshire.
- The New Hampshire Constitution requires taxes to be proportionate and reasonable.

Ilyssa Sherman:

- The current budget makes it impossible for reproductive health centers to be part of the New Hampshire family planning program because of unnecessary requirements designed to defund abortion care providers.
- This language is clearly only intended to make it impossible for reproductive health centers to participate in the family planning program, even though 79

percent of patients in the program are cared for at reproductive health centers. Ilyssa has been one of those patients.

- Ilyssa's father passed away two months prior to her wedding. She had just turned 26 and was relying on her father for health insurance until her wedding. Her only option was to go on COBRA, but with the waiting period Ilyssa went without insurance for two weeks. During this time period she had a flare up with endometriosis, and had been seeing a specialist to manage her condition. However, she could not afford to see the specialist without insurance.
- Ilyssa made an appointment at her local Planned Parenthood health center, where she received the patient-centered care she needed at the time. In a time in her life when she felt so incredibly broken, the staff at Planned Parenthood helped her start the process of picking up the pieces.
- Four years later Ilyssa is a sexual and reproductive health nurse. She now speaks as both a former patient and as a caregiver to this population. Many of her patients have low incomes or are uninsured and rely on the low or no-cost services provided through the family planning program. They deserve access to preventative care. Don't take this care away, especially during a time when accessibility is already an incredibly large barrier.
- Reproductive health services are so greatly needed for people all across New Hampshire. It is completely unacceptable that this budget prioritizes slashing access to preventative health care, especially in the midst of a pandemic.
- If finalized, this budget will cause an undue physical and psychological burden on people all across New Hampshire, and will result in a public health disaster for this state.

Laura Vincent:

- SB 130, Education Freedom Accounts, should be omitted from HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL.
- There is a lack of accountability in this bill for student outcomes in the language about EFAs. Although the language has been amended to include three choices to measure student progress, a large loophole remains. The three choices listed to assess student progress are: (1) using the NH state assessment used in public schools; (2) using another standardized test; and (3) using an evaluation of a portfolio of student work. This assessment by portfolio evaluation is where the loophole lies.
- For instance, a student being homeschooled could have their portfolio evaluated by any "teacher" selected by the parent. The teacher doing the evaluation, perhaps a relative or friend of the family, does not have to be certified and does not have to have experience at the student's grade level, such as a non-certified teacher working in a private kindergarten evaluating a high school student's portfolio.
- There is no language requiring this portfolio evaluation to be reported to the state or school district, only to the scholarship organization. The scholarship organization is not authorized or required to do anything further with the portfolio, and is not authorized or required to terminate an EFA even if the student shows no progress year after year.

- Although this situation may not occur frequently, when it does occur, there is no recourse for addressing the student's unmet needs.
- This issue could be considered under the increased scrutiny of a stand-alone bill.

Mary Wilke:

- It is critical the entire \$89 million funding loss that school districts are facing be restored to the budget. Even with this money, many of our districts will remain grossly underfunded. This is a bare minimum.
- Don't include SB 130, the voucher bill, in the budget. The bill needs the kind of close scrutiny it can only get as a stand-alone bill. SB 130 has many problems associated with it.
- The private nonprofit and for-profit educational service providers that would be paid with our money are not required to have any particular credentials, licenses or certification, or even to conduct criminal background checks on employees who would be working with children.
- Nothing in the bill prevents employees of the scholarship organization or their family members from setting up their own for-profit tutoring service or therapy center, steering parents to those providers, and then paying them with our taxpayer dollars.
- Why does the bill grant the scholarship organization immunity from legal liability? They won't be held to the usual standard of reasonable care that applies to the rest of us. We the taxpayers have the right to expect them to use reasonable care if they are going to handle tens of millions of dollars of our collective money.
- The LBAO has not issued a detailed fiscal analysis of the impact of this bill. Meanwhile, the DOE has made some fiscal predictions that need more scrutiny.
- If a child took an EFA, the associated public school would lose the adequacy money and differentiated aid it would otherwise receive on the child's behalf. Yet the child could continue to attend public school for up to 50 percent of each week for the remainder of the child's school life.
- If the child had special needs the public school would remain responsible for addressing all of the special needs, which can be very expensive, without receiving any of that state assistance. The money would be going to the private school which would have no obligation to provide special ed services.
- Don't place SB 130 into the budget.

Morgan Wilson:

- The House budget defunds Planned Parenthood of Northern New England and independent abortion providers. It defunds essential health care providers during a pandemic.
- As a former patient of Planned Parenthood, Morgan knows firsthand the importance of the reproductive health services they offer. She has the knowledge she can always return to Planned Parenthood for understanding, compassionate care. They offer high quality care while making it affordable for those under-insured or uninsured.
- Many are only able to access vital reproductive health care through Planned Parenthood.

- This program is greatly needed for people like Morgan all across the state.
- This budget will cause significant harm to public health in New Hampshire, and reduce the access residents have to affordable health care services.
- Please oppose this language in the budget.

James Bomersbach:

- Mr. Bomersbach is a licensed psychologist in New Hampshire.
- HB 544 is based on factual falsehoods. The claims made about Critical Race Theory and other theories are not based in reality.
- We should be focused on increasing discussion of bias, in all of its forms, across this state. That is how we are going to do as much as we can to eliminate these from society. That should be our goal.
- This bill puts us in the wrong direction.
- In consideration of the practical side of this, there are costs associated with this that are not included in the bill, including enforcement and the inevitable legal challenges.
- New Hampshire could lose out on important infusions of money to the state because we will become one of the few states who has passed this type of hateful rhetoric.

Rep. Larry Welkowitz:

- As the Chair of the Psychology Department at Keene State College, disgusting, divisive concepts are at the heart of academics. Classroom conversations are essential to breaking down core issues.
- They talk about institutional racism in professional psychology. Why are there so few blacks in psychology?
- In New Hampshire there is no public program for doctoral level education in clinical psychology. We may be the only state in the country without one.
- Can we talk about differential impacts on people with different economic status? We must.
- We can't simply avoid divisive concepts if we are to effectively review and discuss all these types of topics.
- A vote for this bill is a strike against the academic process. The language won't be followed in academia.
- There will be an immediate First Amendment challenge in court, that will sadly have to be paid for by the citizens of New Hampshire.
- Oppose this section of the budget.

Dan Weeks:

- Dan is a Director and Co-Owner of ReVision Energy.
- Their business is always concerned with bringing their employees back, particularly female employees.
- Keep the budget level funded so that families experiencing hardship during the pandemic can afford childcare they need to keep working, or get back to work. This will ensure equity in the workforce.

- ReVision Energy has been awarded many public sector contracts to install energy systems for different municipalities and school districts. It's not the state's business what internal trainings they offer their employees to support an inclusive workplace.
- They struggle to meet their workforce needs. They need to retain young people and attract new workers out of state to New Hampshire.
- Passing the language of HB 544 will be a black eye for our state. It will attract a lot of national negative attention.
- It will make it harder to create the kind of diverse, productive, inclusive workforce that is good for their business and for our state.
- The requirements of HB 544 are onerous.

Crystal Paradis:

- Crystal was diagnosed with menorrhagia. The symptoms leave her unable to work or do any usual tasks a few days each month. She was uninsured and reached out to Planned Parenthood for help.
- As Crystal was uninsured and low-income, the services Planned Parenthood provided her were 100 percent covered by family planning funding.
- This access to timely, compassionate care changed Crystal's life.
- Everyone is aware of the potential gap in Title X funding for family planning services here in New Hampshire. Cutting this critical gap funding would be unnecessarily cruel as we recover from the biggest health crisis in generations.
- Amend HB 1-A to include funding for this 9-month gap for family planning.

Hunter Porter:

- The Nashua High School South Democrats oppose HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL because of the horrendous inclusion of HB 544. The bill would prohibit students from truly learning the history of our country. Teachers would be unable to fully discuss the racism and sexism that colors the past and present of this country.
- As can be seen in the police killings that engulf our news, police officers have a clear bias against people of color. This bias has fatal consequences. Bias training is a necessary and extremely important part of police training. Prohibiting the state from providing bias training opens the door to racism and sexism in many workplaces.
- Racial sensitivity training helps people of color and women from experiencing micro-aggressions that white people may not have been aware of before the training. This is extremely harmful to marginalized groups because they will not feel completely safe in their workplaces.
- People should not expect to experience racism and sexism in their workplaces. Some may say if people feel uncomfortable in their workplace, they should leave. This is not a choice for many New Hampshire citizens.

Nicolette Gallibrano:

- Private schools are often more well-funded, and can offer exciting opportunities that our public schools have been forced to cut by repeated reductions in state funding.

- The private school and the scholarship organization benefit from education freedom accounts, not the family.
- When private schools give students scholarships based on need, they ask to see what resources the family has available to them, including any other grants and scholarships. They take these resources into account.
- There are much better uses for state funds for education. This is just one of the many flaws and gaps in SB 130 that need to be considered and addressed. It's unlikely in a budget year the Legislature will have the capacity to do so.
- SB 130 should not be rolled into the budget.

Dennis Calcutt:

- Dennis is the Director of Connected Families NH. They have benefited from children's mental health services. They are a care management entity for the state.
- If HB 544 remains in the budget, they would be in direct conflict of its provisions. They would probably have to return grant money to the federal government, and cease the work they are doing. This would hamper the progress they have made around the system of care work, as well as children's mental health.

Katrina Miamis:

- Katrina suffers from endometriosis, which made her physically incapable of going to work. Her pain was greatly reduced by having an IUD inserted at the Lovering Health Center in Greenland. She no longer misses work due to pain.
- A cut in funding will be a reduction in resources, and women like Katrina will go untreated.
- Don't exclude the Lovering Health Center from the state's family planning program.

Former Sen. Melanie Levesque:

- No one should be blamed or made to feel guilty for the acts of the past.
- What may seem divisive to one person, may be a life experience of another.
- Sen. Levesque's own parents were unable to purchase a home as the realtor would not sell it to them. Their neighbors voted on whether to allow them to move into the neighborhood.
- Unbiased information is very difficult to find these days. Public institutions are defunded and speech is stifled. Neighbors turn against neighbors.
- Our government puts divisive language such as HB 544 into our laws.
- Remove the divisive language from the state budget. Produce a budget that allows all of our people in New Hampshire not just to survive, but to thrive.

Rep. Matt Wilhelm:

- Rep. Wilhelm's legislative district encompasses the heart of downtown Manchester and the historic Millyard.
- He supports the Save our Granite Stages Act.
- Downtown Manchester is home to a number of small to mid-size performance venues.

- The live music industry was the first to close during the pandemic, and will be among the last to reopen.
- It's been heartbreaking to see how the pandemic has impacted the livelihood of Rep. Wilhelm's friends and former coworkers.
- There was a clear, direct increase in direct economic activity on nights when there was a show in town.
- It's critical we do what we can to support these economic drivers for communities across our state.
- Include Save our Granite Stages Act in the state budget.

Karen Blake:

- Fully fund all the line items for developmental disabilities services in the budget, and the people who carry out the work, such as direct support professionals.
- Support the adult dental benefit, as well as funding for the 10-Year Mental Health Plan.
- Her 14 yr. old son has been diagnosed with autism and ADHD, and is currently supported by Northern Human Services through the In-Home Supports Waiver.
- They have also received family-centered supports and services in the past.
- They consider themselves lucky having been able to find a provider for their son. It took them two years to find one. These services are helping their son to work on social interaction, using money and beginning to cook using the microwave. Someday, likely, he will need support to be a successful adult.
- As a Medicaid recipient he will need adult dental benefits and employment support to live as independently as possible. He may need mental health services and support as well.

Rep. Maria Perez:

- We need to work at diversity inclusion.
- HB 544 doesn't belong in the budget.
- More people in our communities are suffering from mental illness due to the pandemic. We are losing many lives. We need to provide more of these services.

David Docken:

- David has a sister who has been on the CFI program for a number of years.
- This program helps her and is essential.
- There is not enough money to pay caregivers to come into the home and provide the services required.
- There should be more oversight to guarantee these services are actually performed, and the caregivers are trained.
- Without this funding costs will increase for the state on many different levels.

dm

Date Hearing Report completed: May 23, 2021

**REVISED
SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
Finance**

Sen Gary Daniels, Chair
Sen John Reagan, Vice Chair
Sen Bob Giuda, Member
Sen Erin Hennessey, Member
Sen Chuck Morse, Member
Sen Lou D'Allesandro, Member
Sen Cindy Rosenwald, Member

Date: April 28, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday	05/04/2021	
(Day)	(Date)	
Finance	REMOTE 000	6:00 p.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)

6:00 p.m. **HB 1-A** making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

6:00 p.m. **HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL** relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

Members of the public may attend using the following links:

1. Link to Zoom Webinar: <https://www.zoom.us/j/95006733265>
2. To listen via telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): 1-301-715-8592, or 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099, or 1-253-215-8782, or 1-346-248-7799, or 1-669-900-6833
3. Or iPhone one-tap: 19292056099,,95006733265# or 13017158592,,95006733265#
4. Webinar ID: **950 0673 3265**
5. To view/listen to this hearing on YouTube, use this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjBZdtrjRnQdmg-2MPMiWrA>
6. To sign in to speak, register your position on a bill and/or submit testimony, use this link:
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/remotecommittee/senate.aspx>

The following email will be monitored throughout the meeting by someone who can assist with and alert the committee to any technical issues: remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us or call (603-271-6931).

Deb Martone 271-4980

Gary L. Daniels
Chairman

Speakers

Senate Remote Testify

Finance Committee Testify List for Bill HB2 on 2021-05-04

Support: 22 Oppose: 1146 Neutral: 13 Total to Testify: 68

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Moore, Amy	amoore@ascentria.org	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Ascentria Care Alliance	Neutral	Yes	4/23/2021 3:54 PM
Doherty, David	ddoherty0845@gmail.com	16038480055	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/26/2021 10:11 AM
Barlow, Angela	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself and KSCEA (Keene State Educators Association)	Oppose	Yes	4/26/2021 7:58 AM
Osherson, Sam	sam@osherson.com	603-313-3153	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/26/2021 10:15 AM
Porter, Hunter	porterhunter2005@outlook.com	603.718.2821	A Member of the Public	Nashua High School South Democrats	Oppose	Yes	4/26/2021 11:17 AM
ward, janet	jwardnh@comcast.net	16037464991	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/26/2021 11:13 AM
Spiegler, Galen	galenspi@gmail.com	603.283.8176	A Member of the Public	Consumers of Personal care attendants	Support	Yes	4/26/2021 12:20 PM
Schapiro, Joe	joe.schapiro@leg.state.nh.us	603.852.5039	An Elected Official	Cheshire 26, Keene	Oppose	Yes	4/26/2021 12:29 PM
Jordan, Pamela	pamjordan01@hotmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/27/2021 12:41 PM
McLynch, Jeff	jmclynch@fairfundingnh.org	603-945-9988	A Lobbyist	NH School Funding Fairness Project	Oppose	Yes	4/28/2021 8:43 AM
Richman, Susan	susan7richman@gmail.com	603.868.2758	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/28/2021 9:03 AM
Dunham, Bonnie	Bsdunham12@gmail.com	603.860.5445	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/28/2021 10:28 PM
Maddocks, William Maddocks	Billnhccc@gmail.com	508.574.3285	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/29/2021 8:40 AM
Veasey, Michelle	michelle@nhbsr.org	603-391-8471	A Member of the Public	NH Businesses for Social Responsibility	Oppose	Yes	4/29/2021 5:25 PM
Cass, Ilana	ilana.cass@hitchcock.org	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/29/2021 5:28 PM
Hayward, Marcia	mjhayward131@gmail.com	603 524 2588	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/26/2021 4:24 PM
Tam-Semmens, Helen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/26/2021 6:16 PM

Reetz, Allan	areetz@coopfoodstore.com	16036432667	A Member of the Public	Hanover Co-op Food Stores	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 11:23 AM
BECKER, CHRISTOPHER	cbecker@leafschoolnh.org	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/29/2021 12:53 PM
matlage, linda	l.mattlage@gmail.com	603 496 0172	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/29/2021 2:57 PM
Tuttle, Megan	mtuttle@nhnea.org	Not Given	A Lobbyist	NEA-NH	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 12:01 PM
Kiess, Mike	michael@vitalcommunities.org	802.299.5864	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes	4/29/2021 2:32 PM
Query, Joshua	Jfquery@gmail.com	317.752.5510	An Elected Official	Hillsborough 16, Manchester ward 9	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 4:03 PM
Antman, Alyssa	alyssa.antman2@gmail.com	603.973.5133	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 1:19 PM
O'CONNELL, Jim	Joconnell@mansd.org	617.851.0428	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 12:35 PM
Montgomery, Kayla	kayla.montgomery@ppnne.org	603.674.8372	A Lobbyist	Planned Parenthood NH Action Fund	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 11:39 AM
Cann, Emily	emily_cann@hotmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 2:38 PM
Weinberg, Jonathan	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 2:41 PM
Pape, Angela	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 3:09 PM
Bunting, Deborah	dbunting44@gmail.com	603.986.8006	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/1/2021 11:45 AM
Bundy, Linda	n_bundy@mcttelecom.com	603 588 2254	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/1/2021 1:26 PM
Wade McLoughlin, Dr. Shirley	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/2/2021 7:09 PM
Gregory-Davis, Rev. John	john@meridenucc.org	16034693235	A Member of the Public	Meriden Congregational Church, ~ UCC	Oppose	Yes	5/2/2021 9:44 PM
Lundahl, Judy	judy.lundahl@gmail.com	603.762.5656	A Member of the Public	Monadnock Interfaith Project	Oppose	Yes	5/2/2021 8:21 PM
Stoddard, Kristine	kstoddard@bistatepca.org	Not Given	A Lobbyist	Bi-State Primary Care Association	Neutral	Yes	5/3/2021 8:36 AM
Willis, John	johnsgoodwillis@yahoo.com	16033450538	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 9:17 PM
Fogarty, Maggie	mfogarty@afsc.org	603.988.7115	A Lobbyist	American Friends Service Committee - NH	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 9:24 AM
Houde, Matthew	Not Given	Not Given	A Lobbyist	Dartmouth-Hitchcock	Neutral	Yes	5/3/2021 10:42 AM
Schiavoni, Mary	mary.schiavoni@adimab.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Adimab, LLC	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 11:57 AM
Spencer, Louise	lpskentstreet@gmail.com	603.491.1795	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 10:19 AM
Wells, Rev. Jason	jason@nhchurches.org	(603) 361-71	A Member of the Public	NH Council of Churches	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 11:31 AM
Quimby, Leah	leahquimby@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 2:03 PM

Smith, MD, MPH, J. J.	jaycmd7699@gmail.com	603.738.6221	A Member of the Public	Myself	Neutral	Yes	5/3/2021 4:34 PM
Dickinson, Jeff	jdickinson@gsil.org	603.410.6526	A Member of the Public	Myself	Neutral	Yes	5/3/2021 3:17 PM
Frey, Gina	ginagfrey@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 2:45 PM
Caplan, Tony	anthonycaplan1@gmail.com	603.428.7042	An Elected Official	Merrimack 6	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 6:38 PM
Donchess, James	nashuamayor@nashuanh.gov	603.566.3628	An Elected Official	Nashua	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 5:04 PM
Beaudoin, Lisa	lisa.ablenh@gmail.com	603.878.0459	A Member of the Public	ABLE NH	Neutral	Yes	5/3/2021 5:17 PM
Horrigan, Rep. Timothy	timothy.horrigan@leg.state.nh.us	603.969.3823	An Elected Official	Strafford 6	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 4:58 PM
Chaffee, Devon	Not Given	Not Given	A Lobbyist	ACLU of NH	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 4:46 PM
Thomas, Elaine	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Neutral	Yes	5/3/2021 5:46 PM
Beaudoin-Friede, Forrest	forrestvader@gmail.com	603-552-8278	A Member of the Public	Myself	Neutral	Yes	5/3/2021 5:29 PM
Opramolla, Deborah	dopramolla@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 8:26 PM
Elhuni, Asma	asma@radnh.org	678.644.3544	A Lobbyist	Rights and Democracy NH	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 1:56 AM
Near, Jennifer	jmnear@gmail.com	16036300299	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 8:05 PM
Harris, Anthony	Felonvote@gmail.com	603.682.3334	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 10:10 PM
barnes, ken	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 12:42 AM
Collins, Lindsey	Lindseyellisoncollins@gmail.com	804.337.1741	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 6:28 PM
LUNEAU, DAVID	dluneauNH@gmail.com	603.661.0990	An Elected Official	People of Concord and Hopkinton	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 7:57 AM
Poore, Anthony	antpoore@gmail.com	603.661.9365	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 8:55 AM
dibiasi, marcela	marcela.a.dibiasi@gmail.com	210.896.0765	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 9:20 AM
Robbins, Ed	ed@voiptechnicians.com	978.494.4891	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 9:46 AM
McClain, Trysten	trystenmcclain@icloud.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 12:25 PM
Stockwell, Heather	heather@radnh.org	603.762.5718	A Lobbyist	Rights & Democracy NH	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 11:34 AM
Dana, hackett	dana12384@gmail.com	603.986.5898	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 12:04 PM
Hannan, Sue	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 1:05 PM
Opramolla., Deborah	dopramolla@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 2:27 PM

franklin, mike	mfranklin@naminh.org	603.568.3304	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 8:32 AM
Webb, Madelyn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:34 AM
Lansigan, Frederick	frederick.lansigan@hitchcock.org	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:27 PM
Fulmer, Kathleen	Kathyfulmer@rocketmail.com	693.661.9327	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:30 PM
Pye, Brittany	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:39 PM
Lanchester, Robert	cjlanchester@gmail.com	603.823.8770	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:43 PM
Gilbert, Holly	hollygnp@comcast.net	16037023916	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:48 PM
Costello, Bethany	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:50 PM
Pierce, Christina	christina_pierce@me.com	603.585.6711	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:00 PM
Reynolds, Deidre	dede40@comcast.net	603.236.9616	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:01 PM
Gardner, Sheila	drsgardner@gmail.com	603.508.0309	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:08 PM
Cahill, Michael	michael.cahill@leg.state.nh.us	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:12 PM
Alther, Marylouise	marylouise46@hotmail.com	603.357.8314	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/4/2021 1:13 PM
Mackenzie, Eleanor	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 3:17 PM
Lucci, Nancy	nancymarielucci@gmail.com	603.490.4680	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 3:55 PM
Gamtso, Carolyn	Carolyn.gamtso@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 4:20 PM
Moulton, Candace	candaceleighm@gmail.com	603.782.6470	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/5/2021 10:28 AM
Hardy, Christianne	Cchardy16@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/5/2021 5:16 PM
Cody, Charlotte	charlotte49cody@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 3:03 PM
Cloutier, Corinne	corinne-cloutier@hotmail.com	603.660.3346	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:09 PM
Trooboff, Caroline	Ctrooboff@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:11 PM
Trooboff, Stevan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:20 PM
Wu, Jonathan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:22 PM

Litalien, Jocelyn	jocelynlitalien@gmail.com	603.513.9780	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:41 PM
Fyfe, Charlotte	charlottedyfe@comcast.net	(508) 237-26	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:07 PM
Kowalski, Amanda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:30 PM
Endrulat, Erik	eendrulat@gmail.com	541.250.0693	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 3:29 PM
Connole, Ian	ijconnole@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 3:34 PM
Harris, Hilary	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 3:42 PM
Vallone, Mark	nhatlasman@comcast.net	603.679.5186	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:37 PM
O'Brien, Alyssa	alyssajabraham@gmail.com	603.502.6711	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:34 PM
Brooks, Seth	sethbrooks2000@gmail.com	603.359.6806	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/5/2021 9:44 AM
A, Andre	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/5/2021 11:34 AM
Hirsch, Ryan	ryanglenhirsch@gmail.com	603.508.0463	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/5/2021 11:37 AM
Drake gobbo, Linda	Ldgobbo@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/5/2021 4:21 PM
Walsh, Katie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/6/2021 7:49 PM
Butt, Rebecca	buttrebecca@yahoo.com	603-545-8303	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/7/2021 10:53 AM
Otoole, Sonrisa	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/10/2021 6:19 PM
McKim, James	james.mckim@organizationalignition.com	(603) 540-39	A Member of the Public	Organizational Ignition	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:16 PM
Barker, Dean	dbarker@aemseagles.org	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:20 PM
Berger, LCMHC, Linda-Ruth	writeonlr@aol.com	603.224.0600	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:20 PM
Pearsall, Mary	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:23 PM
Street, Elisabeth	streetbetsy@yahoo.com	603873424	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:47 PM
Parsons, Nancy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:07 PM
Blomquist, Brittany	Britblom@hotmail.com	603.477.6982	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:13 PM
Alphonse, Arleen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:36 AM

			Public					
Ratinoff, Eric	eric@storyfir.st	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:41 AM	
Cochrane, Eleanor	cochraneeb@gmail.com	603.525.4378	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:42 AM	
Cochrane, Douglas	dcochrane@myfairpoint.net	603.496.1907	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:43 AM	
Buttrick, Faye	buttrickfj1@att.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:44 AM	
Castillo-Turgeon, Eva	Evita8@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:47 AM	
Starkey, Janice	rjzj.starkey@gmail.com	603.359.6361	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:47 AM	
Preiss, Michaela	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:48 AM	
Cherrington, Brett	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:53 AM	
Hatch, Sally	sallyhatch@comcast.net	16037247448	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:56 AM	
Hucks, Darrell	dhucks@keene.edu	917-601-7144	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:58 AM	
Vince, Chang	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:29 PM	
Beaulieu, Jane	jbergeron@nhasea.org	494-1149	A Lobbyist	NH Association of Special Education Administrators	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:33 PM	
Anonymous, EnEsEl	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:33 PM	
QUISUMBING-KING, Cora	coraq@comcast.net	603.343.4347	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:36 PM	
Gailing, Paula	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:37 PM	
Bickford, Pia	piabickford@gmail.com	603.969.2921	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:37 PM	
Stock, Jasen	jstock@nhtoa.org	603.224.9699	A Lobbyist	NH Timberland Owners Association	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:38 PM	
Hathaway-Zepeda, Case	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:40 PM	
DiCesare, Maria	mariadice88@gmail.com	407.754.7523	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:44 PM	
Meuse, David	David.Meuse@leg.state.nh.us	Not Given	An Elected Official	Rockingham 29	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:45 PM	
Horrigan, Savitri	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:45 PM	
Howe, Lisa	lkh118@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:46 PM	

Cameron, Cynthia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:49 PM
Demers, Haley	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:51 PM
Sanchez, Yolanda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:54 PM
McCalley, Jennifer	lifelonglearner@msn.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:55 PM
Shaunessy, Kelsie	kalena02@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:58 PM
Penaloza, Mariana	mariana.penaloz.22@dartmouth.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:59 PM
Ahlgren, Jessie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:37 AM
Virga, Maria	mvirga22@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:37 AM
M, P	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:37 AM
Pugh, Barbara	barbara.pugh@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:39 AM
Jones, Eileen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:40 AM
Glowa, Patricia	patricia.t.glowa@hitchcock.org	16036435572	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:41 AM
Lavallee, Willow	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:42 AM
Hagan, Linda	Linda-jc@comcast.net	603-534-1129	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:42 AM
smith, cresta	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:43 AM
KOSNITSKY, CAROL	CKOSNITSKY@COMCAST.NET	603.491.7449	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:46 AM
Martin, Jessica	Jessicamartinevents@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:46 AM
Moran, Niall	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:47 AM
St Germain, Diane	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:48 AM
Smith, Jeffrey	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:48 AM
Minnihan, Brendan	bmminihan88@gmail.com	603.554.5556	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:52 AM
stark, samuel	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:53 AM

Laprise, Troy	t.laprise55@gmail.com	603.660.0054	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:54 AM
Cho, Christie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:55 AM
Swartz, Greta	gps4201@gmail.com	603.686.3987	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:58 AM
Coons, Caroline	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:59 AM
Benevides, Eric	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:02 AM
Goodine, Derik	dgoodine@Allenstownnh.gov	207.595.0310	A Member of the Public	Allenstown Selectboard	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:02 AM
Irwin, Virginia	biddy.irwin@gmail.com	603.520.7038	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:03 AM
Przekwas, Cheryl	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:04 AM
Weatherspoon, jacquelyne	jweatherspoon@exeter.edu	603.339.1752	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:05 AM
O'Keefe, Katherine	katherine.a.o'keefe@hitchcock.org	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:10 AM
Claffey, Renae Lias	renae_claffey@hotmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:16 AM
cowen, sharon	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:18 AM
Meade, Rene	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:21 AM
Knight, Nicole	Nicole.kleinknight@leg.state.nh.us	603.380.8074	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:22 AM
Lyons, Robyn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:26 AM
Luke, Christine	garmmayluke@yahoo.com	401.742.5361	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:31 AM
Jones, Andrew	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:32 AM
Mulligan, Thomas	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:32 AM
Devore, Gary	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:32 AM
Joyce, Brittney	brittneybjoyce@gmail.com	817.575.7226	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:33 AM
Adams, Richard	richarda82@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:47 AM
Ford, Shannon	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:49 AM
Feige, Diana	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:49 AM

			Public				
Wright, Judith	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:49 AM
Murphy, Sajin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:51 AM
Turell, Yusi	yusiwang@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:52 AM
geyselaers, emily	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:59 AM
Tiella, Gino	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:59 AM
Fitch, Dianne	dfitch@conval.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:01 AM
Hatem, Susan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:01 AM
Taylor, Stephen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:01 AM
Cole, Deanna	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:01 AM
Blais, Robert	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:02 AM
Hazelton, Donna	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:03 AM
Fuini, Emma	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:03 AM
Turner, Euna	turner.euna@gmail.com	603.403.2029	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:03 AM
Paveglio, Jennifer	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:07 AM
Torrice, Alyce	alycemarie@gmail.com	207.752.2909	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:08 AM
Oakes, Danielle	danielleoakes1121@gmail.com	16036316950	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/4/2021 10:09 AM
Holman, Silvia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:10 AM
Cloutier, John	joelcloutier@comcast.net	16034773690	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:20 AM
Ulery, Meadow	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:21 AM
Prakop, Jill	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself and Families in Developmental Services	Support	No	5/4/2021 10:21 AM
Ford, Debra	dford@mvrds.org	603.632.5563	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:21 AM
Davis, Helena	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/4/2021 10:23 AM

KARRICK, DAVID	davidonpumpkinhill@yahoo.com	603.456.2772	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:24 AM
Frost, Bradford	frost.bradford@gmail.com	303.549.9259	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:28 AM
Holt, Jeanie	gnegne@gmail.com	603.703.2209	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:28 AM
Fogarty, Sean	sean.z.fogarty@gmail.com	603.553.1108	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:31 AM
Holt, David	davholt@aol.com	603.781.8649	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:34 AM
Mulligan, Virginia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:35 AM
Rubin, Hannah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:35 AM
smith, w kent	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:36 AM
Squires, Peter	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:36 AM
Angers, Laura	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:37 AM
Irwin, Tom	tirwin@clf.org	Not Given	A Lobbyist	Conservation Law Foundation	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:04 AM
Necol, Barbara	bnecol@myfairpoint.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:04 AM
Kenison, Linda	l.kenison@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:20 PM
Crockett, Robert	rocroc@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:23 PM
Whitford, Heather	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:23 PM
Skinner, Amanda	Not Given	603.667.6974	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:23 PM
Audsley, Olivia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:23 PM
Campbell, Margaret	macatmf@aol.com	603.298.7597	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:22 AM
Loui, Sarah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:23 AM
Bruss, Deborah	deborahbruss@me.com	603.344.1550	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:24 AM
Harris, Ben	Bh5@unh.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:27 AM
Epstein, Isaac	epstein.isaac@gmail.com	603.969.5908	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:28 AM
Carpenter, Rachel	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:28 AM

Paustian, Christina	Not Given	Not Given	Public A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:29 AM
Rafferty, Phoebe	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:30 AM
Kutz, Dave	Dkutz87@gmail.com	508.287.6732	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:31 AM
Coursin, David	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:32 AM
Demarese, Jaime	Jaalmeroth@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:33 AM
DelBonis-Platt, Paula	pdelbonisplatt@gmail.com	603.746.3310	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:34 AM
Frost, Sherry	sherry.frost@leg.state.nh.us	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:38 AM
Noyes, Megan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/4/2021 9:39 AM
Vachon, Beth	Bvachon@metrocast.net	603.387.0205	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:39 AM
Rei, Amanda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:42 AM
Fogg, Ruby	rubyefogg@gmail.com	683.746.4873	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:43 AM
Costello, Emilie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:43 AM
Stergas, Julia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:43 AM
Mitchell, Rebecca	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:44 AM
McNally, Stephanie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:45 AM
Grazulis, Brianne	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:45 AM
McBrian, Melanie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/4/2021 9:46 AM
Sirrell, Kelly	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:56 AM
Phillips, Michael	phillips@lamorapsych.com	603.889.8648	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:56 AM
Dolkart, Kenneth	kenneth.dolkart@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:58 AM
Morgan, Laura	themorgans@tds.net	603.746.5223	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:58 AM
Dresser, Sarah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:59 AM

McIntyre, Clare	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:13 AM
Mejia, Andres	andresmejia@gmail.com	617-615-5238	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:13 AM
Warren, Joan	joanbcwarren@gmail.com	603-306-4133	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:13 AM
Hill, Bonnie	hillbonnie@aol.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:15 AM
Shirley, Sheryl	slshirley603@outlook.com	603.536.4406	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:16 AM
Siemons, CeLynn	Cmsiemons@yahoo.com	802.752.7336	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:17 AM
McPartlin, Deirdre	deirdrehana@ne.rr.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:17 AM
Day, Karen	riverqueen@pobox.com	603.547.2985	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:18 AM
Adams, Maura	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:19 AM
Johnson, Kristin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:09 AM
Putney, Karla	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:12 AM
Rich, Martha	martha.rich@thet.net	603 632 9460	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:13 AM
Taylor, Susan	sueetaylor158@gmail.com	603.675.6566	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:16 AM
Schonwald, Virginia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:17 AM
Freeman, Ivor	mfakci@usa.net	16039385255	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:17 AM
Aissa, Evelyn	evelyn.aissa@gmail.com	603.493.1114	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:19 AM
Layon, Erica	erica.layon@leg.state.nh.us	603.479.9595	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	5/4/2021 9:19 AM
Anania, Brittany	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:57 AM
Wiggins, Frank	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:59 AM
W, B	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:00 AM
Primiano, Dana	dpq7@hotmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:03 AM
Shepard, Angela	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:04 AM
Yosha, Patricia	pyosha@comcast.net	16032051061	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:07 AM

			Public				
Starkey, Robert	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:17 AM
Longo, Colleen	Colleenalongo@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:20 AM
Thornblad, Vernon	Vernonthornblad@gmail.com	617 823-9624	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:21 AM
soltis, kathryn	kesoltis@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:22 AM
Gore, Aditya	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:24 AM
Murray, Megan	megan.murray@leg.state.nh.us	Not Given	An Elected Official	Hillsborough District 22	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:27 AM
Achterhof, Bonnie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:31 AM
Cross, John	jc938272@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:28 PM
Setser, Ellen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:31 PM
Head, Linda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:32 PM
Goodwin, Charlie	cgoodwinartist@gmail.com	603.456.3885	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:33 PM
Teran, Catherine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:34 PM
Cahill_Yeaton, Miriam	nmyeaton.mims@yahoo.com	603-731-1810	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:36 PM
Smith, Martie	Martie.k.smith@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:39 PM
Marcello, Kelley	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:41 PM
Wallace, Melissa	wallace_melissa@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:41 PM
Hayes, Erin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:24 PM
O'Connor-Maynard, Kelli	kelliomaynard@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:26 PM
Wren, Kenney	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:26 AM
Hakken-Phillips, Mary	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:25 AM
Mathur, Anita	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:59 AM
Cragin, Mekeel	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 3:16 AM

Navarro, Clarissa	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:47 AM
Smith, Laura	Laura.smith1@comcast.net	603-778-4876	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:49 AM
Richman, Ryan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:50 AM
Defuria, Claudia	gregs999@aol.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:51 AM
Moriarty, Sylvie	sylviemoriarty@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:52 AM
Metcalf, Richard	richardwmetcalf@gmail.com	603.744.0440	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:59 AM
McCombs, Elizabeth	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:00 AM
Brisson, Alisa	Alisabrisson@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:08 AM
Hinnov, Emily M.	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:08 AM
Stone, Janet	Jpstone8@aol.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:08 AM
McGowan, Tondy	Not Given	603.491.1525	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:09 AM
Abendroth, Elizabeth	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:11 AM
Trayers, Katherine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:11 AM
Sheedy, Keisha	keisha.sheedy@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:12 AM
Boschert, Sharon	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:14 AM
Gagnon, Tiffany	Tif.blessing.gagnon@gmail.com	508.981.8218	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:17 AM
Kelley, DVorah	dvorah.kelley@gmail.com	603.762.3311	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:18 AM
Morgan, Marie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:24 AM
Curry, Tabitha	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:10 PM
Pepp, Kristin	Kmerenda@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:11 PM
McGuirk, Zoe	Zoeladybug1@icloud.com	603.969.2106	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:12 PM
Haggerty, Katelyn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:16 PM

O'Brien, Cathy	cobrien657@gmail.com	603.352.1053	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:16 PM
Spencer, Jill	stillwatercove@yahoo.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:56 PM
Caron, Melina	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:05 PM
McKeon, Madison	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:06 PM
Provencher, Emily	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:09 PM
Levesque, Melanie	Mlevesque1@charter.net	603-930-9951	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:11 PM
Aronson, Laura	laura@mlans.net	603.432.1603	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:13 PM
Kenney, Madyn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:16 PM
Booth, Emma	ebooth42@gmail.com	603.247.4777	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:16 PM
Boyle, Mary	mary.n.boyle@gmail.com	603.252.7898	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:18 PM
Amante, Alix	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:43 PM
Crowell, Ashley	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:48 PM
Prouty, Rebecca	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:49 PM
Greenleaf, Jason	Jasonskillertoys@gmail.com	603.512.6868	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:51 PM
Ferland, Emily	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:55 PM
Hill, Talmira	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:56 PM
Craven, Caitlin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:59 PM
G, Kim	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:27 PM
Vogel, Mike	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:28 PM
Archibald, Kenn	Kennarchibald@yahoo.com	603.488.5951	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:34 PM
Richards, Matthew	mricha711@gmail.com	603.854.3953	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:16 AM
Mott-Smith, Wiltrud	Not Given	603-267-7566	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:06 PM

Sweeney-Blaise, Robyn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:06 PM
Taylor, Fred	ftaylor@keene.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:07 PM
Neugebauer, Sarah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:07 PM
Neva, Addison	alneva@gmail.com	603.352.8327	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:07 PM
Burgess, Karyn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:07 PM
Dutzy, Sherry	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:09 PM
Neva, Meena	meenaneva@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:09 PM
Lewis, Elizabeth	ecop.lewis@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:10 PM
Kearns, Gavin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:12 PM
Gallo, Kathryn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:13 PM
Munro, Kathryn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:13 PM
Fagan, Julie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:14 PM
kuszek, kurtis	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:14 PM
Wightman, Nancy	Nwlaststraw@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:17 PM
Cann, Mary	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:18 PM
Beaupre', stephen	stephenbeaupre@tds.net	469-3425	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:19 PM
Wheeler, Kathleen	Kathleen1010@hotmail	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:21 PM
Dessert, Samantha	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:23 PM
Cote, Madelin	maddycarignan111@gmail.com	603-533-3371	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:24 PM
DiCicco, Harriet	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:24 PM
Goldner, Laura	lhgoldner@hotmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:24 PM
Keazer, Rachel	rkeazer@icloud.com	603.953.6488	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:24 PM
Leavitt, Katherine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:26 PM

			Public				
Sargent, Rachel	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:17 AM
Caver, Daryl	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:17 AM
O'Brien, Sara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:21 AM
Sargent, Isaac	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:25 AM
Keating, Christina	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:30 AM
Evans, Jennifer	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:39 AM
Kyer, Lori	Mermaidhorse@hotmail.com	603-493-5822	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:40 AM
Shiner, Jonathan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:47 AM
Pérez, María	mariaeli63@gmail.com	603.801.7867	An Elected Official	District 23	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:53 AM
Farnum, Ellen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:54 AM
Varney, Austin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:55 AM
Bushueff, Catherine	agawamdesigns@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:57 AM
Gatcomb, Katharine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:03 AM
Walsh, Lynne	lynnewalsh14@gmail.com	617.939.4998	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:04 AM
D'Eon, Glen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:09 AM
Pidgeon, Dawna	dawna.pidgeon@comcast.net	603.443.0762	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:14 AM
Farnum, William	williamwfarnum@gmail.com	603.986.0994	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:15 AM
Wells, Jennifer	j	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:16 AM
Howard, Dan	danhoward100@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:16 AM
O'Connor, John	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:17 AM
Howarth, Whitney	Not Given	603.748.4918	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:22 AM
Bickford Bailey, Tara	tarabb5480@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:17 AM

Stern, Jeanne	Jeannekolkerstern@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:25 AM
Stern, Derek	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:28 AM
Gordon, Leslie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/4/2021 6:28 AM
Blanchard, Amanda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:29 AM
VanderNoot, Mary	Maryvandernoot@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:30 AM
Clark, Lynn	rubylynn862@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:33 AM
Penna, Carrie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:34 AM
Ingram, April	aandk@tds.net	603.491.9711	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:39 AM
Head, Charles	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:41 AM
Chickering, Samantha	Not Given	603.398.3982	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:44 AM
Ciolfi, Monica	ciolfim@comcast.net	16034964807	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:44 AM
Ginsberg, Roye	RoyeGinsberg@hotmail.com	16033573192	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:47 AM
D'Arcy, Rosemary	rvdarcy@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:47 AM
Farkas, Catharine	cafarkas@hotmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:48 AM
Toscano, Theodore	teddyt73@yahoo.com	603.669.0322	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:49 AM
WOODS, Beverly	citizen@beverlywoods.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:50 AM
FRIEDRICH, ED	erfriedrich@yahoo.com	781.775.9397	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:50 AM
Keegan, John	peoresnada@tds.net	16037962852	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:51 AM
Scribner, Lois	scribnerlois@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:52 AM
Garland, Ann	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:52 AM
Kiefner, Robert	rskiefner@gmail.com	603. 568-847	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:52 AM
Mitchell, Laura	lmmdesigns@hotmail.com	(603) 843-77	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:53 AM

Grimm, Curt	cdgrimm@comcast.net	603.724.7048	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:53 AM
Reardon, Donna	Not Given	603.224.8151	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:54 AM
Rutherford, Valerie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:20 AM
Farina, Susan	suef60@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:20 AM
Bates, Nicole	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:21 AM
Greenwood, Nancy	nancgreenwood@yahoo.com	603.226.2471	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:26 AM
Briggs, Ron	Rongb1950@gmail.com	603.226.2471	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:27 AM
kwasnik, joseph	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:27 AM
West, Clifton	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:28 AM
Bates, Marion	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:32 AM
Manchester Bonenfant, Constance	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:35 AM
Doyle, Julia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:40 AM
Dewey, Karen	pkdewey@comcast.net	603.504.2813	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:40 AM
Jachim, Geri	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:41 AM
Loose, Daniela	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:41 AM
Brown, Nancy	wcbnpb@comcast.net	603.731.5989	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:44 AM
Neilley, Ellen	neilley@comcast.net	603.547.2856	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:45 AM
Hetrick, Lex	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:47 AM
Gillis, Robert	rob@mworksource.org	603.924.3326	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/4/2021 7:48 AM
Farren, Julie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:53 AM
Hiller, Kristy	kristyhiller@yahoo.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:54 AM
Wild, Gail	gailwild@gmail.com	603.863.3121	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:57 AM

Goodman, Daisy	daisyjgoodman@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:27 PM
Zeilman, Kelly	kellyqzeilman@gmail.com	860.878.0254	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:27 PM
Beaufays, Pecco	innkeeper@highlandlakeinn.com	603.735.6426	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:27 PM
Rodriguez, Gabi	gabriela.s.rodriguez.23@dartmouth.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:27 PM
Downey, Clare	clare.k.downey.24@dartmouth.edu	202.615.9216	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:27 PM
Chhokra, Dev	dchhokra01@gmail.com	609.865.6008	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:27 PM
Freitag, Joshua	joshua.p.freitag.23@dartmouth.edu	360.953.0981	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:28 PM
Iines, austin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:28 PM
Miller, Laura	jacksrescuemom@gmail.com	603.493.3053	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:28 PM
Millman, David	david.w.millman.23@dartmouth.edu	804.971.8560	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:30 PM
Condap, Erin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:30 PM
Clark, Margo	margoclark06@gmail.com	603.970.0895	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:30 PM
Catanese-Mayo, Sue	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:34 PM
Lang, Breda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:35 PM
Damon, Claudia	cordsdamon@gmail.com	603-226-4561	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:37 PM
Lenz, Elaine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:39 PM
Thomas, Debbie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:41 PM
Hayes, Joanne	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:41 PM
Frawley, Caroline	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:43 PM
Cook, Carly	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:43 PM
Carter, Ainsley	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:45 PM
Ames, Bethany	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:45 PM

Perry, Bob	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:46 PM
Ames, James	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:47 PM
Evans, Anne	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:49 PM
Anderson, Robert	rgand43@gmail.com	914.261.4304	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:49 PM
Witzling, Mara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:54 PM
Merrell, Tom	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:54 PM
Benham, Jillian	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:55 PM
Boucher, Deidra	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:57 PM
Pinto, Josie	Not Given	Not Given	A Lobbyist	New Hampshire Youth Movement	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:57 PM
Chin, Tamara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:58 PM
Dakai, Celeste	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:00 PM
calfin, josiah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:01 PM
Faltus, Eugene	fb9370@outlook.com	860.508.2623	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:03 PM
Nicholson, Amy	Nicholamy@comcast.net	603.674.5659	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:05 PM
Boucher, Jason	Boucher.jason@gmail.com	603.957.9233	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:06 PM
Citrin, Myra	Myracitrin@gmail.com	603-502-5609	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:07 PM
Millstein, Robert	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:08 PM
Desrosiers, Marie	marie.desrosiers@gmail.com	16033696398	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:10 PM
Gile, Stephen-Iziah	Kyosokun@gmail.com	603.504.4245	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:10 PM
Mower, Robin	melodyofharpists@gmail.com	603-659-2716	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:11 PM
Manning, Holly	Hsrobertson86@yahoo.com	603-531-9004	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:12 PM
Brennan, Nancy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:17 PM
Ford, Susan	Sueford06@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:17 PM

			Public				
LeBlanc, Matthew	Not Given	978.895.2709	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:18 PM
Prescott, Anna	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:19 PM
C, Olivia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:20 PM
Eaton, Courtney	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:21 PM
Jachim, Nancy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:22 PM
Kieffer, Kelly	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:22 PM
Kirby, Pamela	pkirby1@comcast.net	603.434.7963	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:23 PM
Zuser, Alexandrin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:27 PM
Alexander, Megan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:28 PM
Mackenzie, Weslie	kipsandy@gmail.com	(603) 381-01	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:30 PM
Robart Bal, Katherine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:31 PM
Covert, Susan	scovert@comcast.net	603.746.4486	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:31 PM
Baker, Maggie	kaganmaggie8@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:32 PM
Maistison, Maureen	maistisonm@outlook.com	603.400.1019	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:32 PM
Minihan, Jeremiah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:34 PM
Koo, Caroline	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:35 PM
Dwyer-Towson, Megan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:42 PM
Beaulieu, Rebecca	Rebeccaeb9495@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:43 PM
Lucey, Sierran	sierran.lucey@gmail.com	207.478.9481	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:46 PM
Catanzaro, Angela	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:46 PM
Morse, Elizabeth	betsybmorse@gmail.com	603.709.7144	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:48 PM
Traviss, Nora	ntraviss@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:48 PM

			Public				
Benham, Linda	Benhamblab@outlook.com	603.373.8741	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:54 PM
wilczynski, patricia	patricia.wilczynski@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:55 PM
Brown, Miles	miles.I.brown.23@dartmouth.edu	860.221.4597	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:56 PM
Beaupre', Donna	stephenbeaupre@tds.net	603.469.3425	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:59 PM
Brown, Jean	jean.e.brown1@gmail.com	603.643.6639	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:00 PM
Cuff, JoEllen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:01 PM
Jones, Kaitlyn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:02 PM
Mullen, Larissa	larissamullen@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:03 PM
Costello, Pat	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:05 PM
Iwaskiewicz, Joel	joel.iwaskiewicz@gmail.com	603.305.3423	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:07 PM
Fagin, Valerie	valeriefagin@comcast.net	603-957-1378	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:33 PM
Jennings, Bailey	bgjings@gmail.com	603.767.6114	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:38 PM
Parikh, Caitlin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:41 PM
Bauer, Jenny	bauer.jennylee@gmail.com	603.660.6351	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:43 PM
Coppola, Shawna	shawnacoppola@gmail.com	207.251.6448	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:43 PM
Howard, Carol	caroldawson640@comcast.net	603.496.5365	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:45 PM
Maynard, Richard	maynardrick@outlook.com	603.232.4796	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:46 PM
Aisenberg, Shana	shana.aisenberg@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:46 PM
Lincoln, Mary	mary.lincoln52@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:47 PM
Kibbe, Sue	Not Given	707.771.9798	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:48 PM
Toffice, Jocelyn	jtoffice@gmail.com	603.866.6178	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:50 PM
Keeler, Margaret	peg5keeler@gmail.com	603-491-4689	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:50 PM

			Public					
Stewart, Alexandra	stewart.ali@gmail.com	603.521.5705	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:51 PM	
Allen, Tara	revtara@pilgrimucc-nh.org	603.443.2754	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:54 PM	
Pike, Heather	heathermpike@gmail.com	603.573.8468	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:54 PM	
Furmanski, Lisa	furmanski.solberg@gmail.com	415.310.4518	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:56 PM	
Chakrabarti, Amit	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:57 PM	
Pelletier, Sandra	spelletier7@yahoo.com	603.493.3579	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/3/2021 6:58 PM	
Kuist, Christopher	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:59 PM	
Podlipny, Ann	apodlipny57@comcast.net	603.370.1914	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:00 PM	
McNeal, Meaghan	essential.meaghan@gmail.com	603.957.8097	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:01 PM	
Hanley, C. Patricia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:01 PM	
Smith, Megan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:01 PM	
Wieselquist, Jennifer	jenn.wieselquist@gmail.com	603.659.2711	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:02 PM	
Gamage, Julie	jgamage272@gmail.com	603 264 2526	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:02 PM	
Howes, Holly	howeshollye@gmail.com	603.306.1767	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:03 PM	
Serrell, James J.	imjjserrell@yahoo.com	5831096	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:10 PM	
Goulet, Melissa	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:11 PM	
Putnam, Timothy	timothy_putnam@hotmail.com	603.554.5434	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:12 PM	
Broshek, Mary Anne	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:14 PM	
Foster, David	debhfoster@yahoo.com	603.774.5932	A Member of the Public	Myself and a property tax payer	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:15 PM	
Driscoll, Liz	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:04 PM	
Paladino, Lisa	leejules272@gmail.com	603 785 5990	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:04 PM	
Beffa-Negrini,	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:08 PM	

Patricia			Public				
Bryde, Tracey	traceybryde@gmail.com	603.682.2760	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:11 PM
Chapin, Laura	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:11 PM
Anton, Leslie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:13 PM
beaufays, gail	gailsbeaufays@gmail.com	603.735.6426	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:15 PM
winter, nitzah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:15 PM
Hale, Vanessa	vhale43@gmail.com	603.689.6235	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:16 PM
Clark, Tamara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:19 PM
Wright, Jessica	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:21 PM
Cornell, Patricia	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:21 PM
Talbott, Beth	betha.talbott@gmail.com	603.894.5317	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:22 PM
Kelsey, Vera Dabney	veradabney422@gmail.com	603.748.9597	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:23 PM
George, Ruth	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:23 PM
Maynard, Patricia	Tricia@maynardpsychology.com	860-670-2763	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:20 PM
Shelton, Kimberley	kimberleyshelton@comcast.net	603.686.6373	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:22 PM
lett, woullard	dubyahh@yahoo.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:23 PM
COLBERT, Kylee	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:26 PM
Bauer, Garrett	bauer.garrett@gmail.com	603.344.0225	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:27 PM
Holcombe, Leslie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:29 PM
Hacker, Emily	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:30 PM
Draper, Barry	bgd@metrocast.net	603.744.2209	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:30 PM
Stocker, Calista	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:30 PM
Leal, Brittany	brittany.n.leal@gmail.com	480.580.2010	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:32 PM

Michele, Gilliatt	gilliattejmm@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:32 PM
Cross, Rachel	rachelecross@gmail.com	401.935.2355	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:32 PM
Cooney, Krystin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:33 PM
Ploog, William	williamhplg@gmail.com	603.728.5121	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:34 PM
Espitia, Manny	manuel.espitia11@gmail.com	714.742.9527	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:36 PM
House, Don	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:37 PM
Alford Teaster, Jenn	jalfordteaster@gmail.com	603.660.6561	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:38 PM
Caudill-Slosberg, Margaret	margaretcs08@gmail.com	603.930.5671	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:38 PM
Leswing, Katherine	katherine.leswing@gmail.com	802.359.2901	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:38 PM
Dineen, Kristin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:39 PM
Lewis, Jim	jlewis@sau71.org	603.491.8258	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:39 PM
Remesch, Katherine	katherinestebbins@gmail.com	603.731.5330	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:39 PM
Cote, Lois	lcote06@outlook.com	603.627.5445	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:40 PM
Foltz, Dave	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:40 PM
Davis, Virginia	tiberivsc@gmail.com	603.860.9416	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:24 PM
Smith, Hannah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:24 PM
goodwin, sophie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:24 PM
Medeiros, Izzy	Im1066@wildcats.unh.edu	401.529.7250	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:24 PM
Davis, Lynn	davis.lynnmarie2010@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:24 PM
Perrow, Rachael	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
McCahill, Maryann	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Ruhl, Olivia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Topouzoglou, Elena	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM

Curtis, Madison	Not Given	Not Given	Public A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Balabanis, Olivia	oab1017@wildcats.unh.edu	508.840.9399	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Esposito, Kaitlyn	kaitlyneposito@yahoo.com	203.464.4293	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Swift, Catherine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Norris, Andria	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Green, Rachel	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Connelly, Caroline	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Sweet, Caroline	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Schwarze, Lizzie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Bunker, Mary Grace	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
mcbride, mccallister	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Ross, Brittany	beaside603@gmail.com	603.848.7048	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Fortier, Meadow	Not Given	207.391.3554	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 PM
Ellermann, Maureen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:24 PM
Lang, Alexis	Alexis.lang@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:27 PM
boudman, roberta	boudwoman2@gmail.com	603.393.3614	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:35 PM
Cooke, Jennifer	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:36 PM
Lanzer, Lindsay	lindsay.lanzer@gmail.com	413.822.2763	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:39 PM
Seekamp, Peter	Not Given	Not Given	State Agency Staff	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:53 PM
Radzelovage, William	Radbill@earthlink.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:40 PM
Langsenkamp, Margaret	mlangsen@gmail.com	603-6824960	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:41 PM
Dickey, Jessica	jessjanice@gmail.com	603.828.1277	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:41 PM

Appel, Rev. Shayna	Minister@uucm.org	802-579-6066	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:41 PM
Chen, Sabina	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:44 PM
Hentz, Nicole	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:46 PM
Geltz, Emily	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:46 PM
Lawson, Linda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:46 PM
Munsey, Nancy	nanmunsey@yahoo.com	603.252.6398	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:47 PM
Harville, Alison	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:51 PM
Moenter, Lesley	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:53 PM
BERK, BRUCE	bruce.berk.nh@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:54 PM
Towne, Matthew	matttowne@metrocast.net	603.767.9990	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:54 PM
Wyman, Meghan	megwyman@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:55 PM
TJETJEN, JOHN	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:56 PM
Valentine, Veronique	veronique.valentine629@gmail.com	603.303.6402	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:58 PM
Tietjen, Amy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:58 PM
Wyman, Eric	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:00 PM
Romero, Dena	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:00 PM
Cummings, Amber	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:02 PM
MELLER, elizabeth	lizmeller1@gmail.com	603.748.0064	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:03 PM
Facteau, Brooke	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:03 PM
Cummings, Brian	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:05 PM
Armstrong, Anne	alafond35@gmail.com	603.622.1020	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:05 PM
Moschetti, Jessica	jrdriscoll@gmail.com	781.710.6407	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:05 PM

Merlone, Lynn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:50 PM
Dwyer, Debra	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/3/2021 5:50 PM
Lynch, Chrisinda	emmelynch@comcast.net	603.225.5614	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:52 PM
DuBois, Ava	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:56 PM
LaBrie, Jody	justjody28@icloud.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:58 PM
Pennington, Jill	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:59 PM
Stanley, Kathleen	kate@kateandtim.us	603-491-4667	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:59 PM
Howard, Nelson	jimh.nh@rcn.com	603-210-2368	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:01 PM
Wheeler, Alexa	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:02 PM
Folsom, Andrea	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:46 PM
Gourlay, Laura	lkgourlay@gmail.com	603.547.0180	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:02 PM
Potvin, Shana	Shanapotvin@gmail.com	603-548-3942	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:02 PM
Sandler, Erin	ersandleremberley@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:18 PM
Istel, Claudia	claudia@sover.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:20 PM
Ropp, Elizabeth	arunareiki@gmail.com	603-703-7871	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:20 PM
Barclay, Taylor	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:21 PM
Soares, Bruno	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	NH Brazilian Council	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:23 PM
Harriott-Gathright, Linda	linda.HarriottGathright@leg.state.nh.us	16038804537	An Elected Official	Constituents	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 4:40 PM
Lee, Sander	slee@keene.edu	603.239.8025	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:06 PM
Ostrowski, Joan	jcmostrowski@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:10 PM
Kidder, Kristine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:11 PM
Stinson, Benjamin	benrkstinson@gmail.com	603.219.1593	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 6:46 PM
Mendez, Deon	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 6:47 PM

			Public				
West, Kate	kwest@sau8.org	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 6:47 PM
Bill, Steven	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 7:05 PM
Wentzell-Brehme, Sage	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 7:43 PM
Frye, Kim	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 8:30 PM
HOUGHTON, BEVERLY	branta213@aol.com	603-643-9272	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:48 PM
Bell, Kat	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:51 PM
DeMio, Lisa	demio@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:57 PM
Carmichael, ? Suzanne	suzanne03229@aol.com	603.746.5168	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:57 PM
Hudson, Azalea	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:05 PM
Stephanie, S.	ssteph@comcast.net	603.661.3030	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:10 PM
Yeaton, Samantha	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:16 PM
Lavelle, Lorna	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:18 PM
McMahon, Dylan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:19 PM
Murray, Meredith	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:19 PM
Fusco, Julianna	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:21 PM
Chicoine, Melanie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:21 PM
Lamb, Katherine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:25 PM
Armstrong-McEvoy, Hazel	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:29 PM
Burns, Caitlin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:31 PM
Townsend, Charles	chucktownsend@me.com	603.632.7493	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:36 PM
Coon, Kate	kate2coon@gmail.com	339.793.0686	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:38 PM
Holden, Russell	rholden@sunapeeschools.org	603.763.4627	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:39 PM

Gilbert, Gabrielle	Not Given	Not Given	Public A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:42 PM
Hayes, Rebecca	ruptonhayes@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:50 PM
Perencevich, Ruth	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:52 PM
Turcotte, Alyssa	aturcotte@eatonberube.com	603.715.9722	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:53 PM
Blutstein, Marcia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:55 PM
Steinberg, Donna	donnasteinberg67@gmail.com	802.299.6359	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 4:00 PM
Kilmartin, Quinn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 4:01 PM
Josephson, Helina	HelinaHappy@gmail.com	603.523.2023	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 4:03 PM
Cannon, Gerri	gerri.cannon@gmail.com	603.841.5410	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 4:04 PM
McPhee, Johanna	jmcphoe@sau90.org	9268706	State Agency Staff	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 4:09 PM
Gee, Sophie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 4:13 PM
ARSNOW, CHRISTINE	CHRISTINE.ARSNOW@GMAIL.COM	781.864.6525	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 4:14 PM
Hutchins, Jennifer	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 4:14 PM
Cascadden, Corinne	corinne.cascadden@gmail.com	603.723.0860	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 4:22 PM
LaFleur, Linda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 4:57 PM
alpert, arnie	aalpernh@gmail.com	603.491.0198	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:12 PM
Gilbert, Marie	mgilbertpa@gmail.com	603.431.3263	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:12 PM
von Kanneurff, Patrick	vonkannewurff@tds.net	603.748.4125	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:14 PM
Fisher, Jay	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:14 PM
Moffett, Howard	howard.m.moffett@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:19 PM
Emond, Brian	brijem@comcast.net	603.926.6231	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:20 PM
Jernstedt, Margaret	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:21 PM

Johnson, Maureen	MaureenJohnson@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:23 PM
Rockwell, Sarah	sarahrockwell@comcast.net	603-965-6499	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:25 PM
Schachter, Pamela	pamelaschachter@gmail.com	732.687.0658	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:28 PM
olson, alix	alixmartha22@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:35 PM
Rougvie, Carol	cbrougvie@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:35 PM
Banderob, Erica	erica.banderob@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:38 PM
Willett, Emilia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:38 PM
Kelsey, Lila	likakels@icloud.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:42 PM
Ladd, Karen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:42 PM
Hubert, Kathy	Kathyhubert@icloud.com	603-863-4038	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:03 PM
Carbonneau, Barbara	glenlake.nh@comcast.net	603.218.9317	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:06 PM
Callaway, Barbara	bcallaway65@gmail.com	603-277-2170	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:08 PM
Goodman, Chloe	Cmkgoodman@gmail.com	603.406.9087	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:12 PM
Davis, Christie	Christie.Davis@unh.edu	603.862.2704	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:51 PM
Gagnon, Karen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:57 PM
Miamis, Katrina	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:00 PM
Kimball, Jean	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/3/2021 1:02 PM
Lewis, Rhian	lewis.rhian.e@gmail.com	603.448.6997	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:02 PM
Oliver, Hannah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:24 PM
Lapham, Wayne	wlapjunk@yahoo.com	603.515.9988	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:25 PM
Small-Porter, Margaret	smallporter@yahoo.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Neutral	No	5/3/2021 1:36 PM
Spechuilli, David	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:39 PM

Monteil, Renée	reneemonteil@gmail.com	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:41 PM
LITTLEFIELD, SHANNON	shshshannon@hotmail.com	603.343.6248	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:43 PM
Scholes, Amy	amyb2002@hotmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:43 PM
Pirkey, Andrea	Not Given	480.263.3434	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:44 PM
Geiger, Alex	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:44 PM
Plagge, Amanda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:45 PM
Rist, Helen	hrist@sau16.org	775-8646	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:46 PM
Dunn, Hope	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:47 PM
Soucy, Autumn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:47 PM
Horne, Jennifer	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:34 AM
Spyvee, Stephanie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:35 AM
Tuthill, John	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:39 AM
Hawthorn, Margaret	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:42 AM
Smiley, Julie	smilesjusa@yahoo.com	508-918-6353	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:43 AM
Marquis, Sharon	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:45 AM
Hackmann, Kent	hackmann@uidaho.edu	16039433225	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:47 AM
Jones, Douglas	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:50 AM
McCarthy, Dian	dianmccarthy@comcast.net	16034972213	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:51 AM
Radejko, Tala	tala.m.radejko.med@dartmouth.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:54 AM
Stearns, Madeline	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:54 AM
Kuist, Sarah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:55 AM
Darrow, Jennifer	gobmango@gmail.com	603.358.2340	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:55 AM
Ames, Sarah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:21 AM

			Public					
Blais, Kristin	Kristin.blais1@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:23 AM
Freeman, Barbara	Not Given	603.934.2442	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:26 AM
Odato, Christopher	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:29 AM
Johnson, Lorraine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:31 AM
McKenzie, David	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:32 AM
Pinneo, Sarah	spinneo@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:38 AM
Werner, Rob	rob_werner@lcv.org	603-674-9810	A Lobbyist	League of Conservation Voters		Neutral	No	5/3/2021 10:40 AM
Lake, Mike	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:41 AM
Viveiros, Donna	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:57 AM
Lavoie, Hannah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:58 AM
Ordway, Brigit	Brigitordway@gmail.com	603.742.4995	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:58 AM
Gould, Mary	pollylgould@yahoo.com	603.448.1660	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:58 AM
Dawson, Zoe	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:58 AM
Kanter, Carley	carleykanter2@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:58 AM
Simpson-Tucker, Emma	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:00 PM
Nagarajan, Meera	meera.k.nagarajan.med@dartmouth.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:01 PM
DaSilva, Jennifer	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:07 PM
H, Page	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:08 PM
Smith, Eric	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:08 PM
Cabral, Cara	cara.e.cabral@gmail.com	603-289-1585	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:15 PM
Hastings, Timothy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:16 PM
Richardson, Roy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:17 PM

Gagnon, Thomas	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:18 PM
Feraco, Katrina	katrina.feraco@gmail.com	603.769.0968	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:20 PM
McNamee, Susan	susanmcnamee@gmail.com	603.493.8294	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:20 PM
Martin, Lisa	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:21 PM
Martin, Sherry	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:21 PM
VAN CLEAVE, LYNN	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/3/2021 12:22 PM
Poff, Hayley	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:22 PM
Hubbard, Rosalind	rosiehubbard87@gmail.com	860.304.5453	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:26 PM
Moccia, Lianne	lianne.moccia@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:27 PM
CROSS, JONATHAN	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:37 PM
S, Bianca	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:39 PM
Corrow, Carisa	carisacorrow@gmail.com	16038566496	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:39 PM
Wengenroth, Jacqueline	jacquelinerriddle30@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:42 PM
Taylor, Maddie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:45 PM
Drew, Ilona	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:46 PM
gallibois, claire	clairegallibois@gmail.com	416.819.3677	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:08 PM
McCarthy, Judith	mccarthy.judy@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:08 PM
DiNapoli, Pamela	nhna.ned@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	NH Nurses Association	Neutral	No	5/3/2021 1:10 PM
O'Neil, Jennifer	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:10 PM
Miki, Eiji	Not Given	603.458.6623	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:14 PM
Dulmage, Kyra	kyra.dulmage@gmail.com	603.548.3646	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:15 PM
Salamanca, Juliana	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:15 PM

Doyle, Marcy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Neutral	No	5/3/2021 1:17 PM
Deyett, KJ	kj@radnh.org	603.370.9004	A Lobbyist	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:54 PM
Brentrup, Maureen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:58 PM
Clark, Allison	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:58 PM
Walker, April	april@morefrogs.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:58 PM
Burr, Emily	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:59 PM
Medovnikov, Hannah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:02 PM
Boggs, Colleen	cglennyboggs@yahoo.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:42 AM
Bickford, Jessica	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:43 AM
Cutshall, Catherine	vivadofamily@aol.com	603.471.9142	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:46 AM
Vivado, Mauricio	maumojo@aol.com	603.471.9142	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:46 AM
Martin, Ken	diyilted@comcast.net	603.486.7849	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:47 AM
Johnson, Annemarie	anniemjohnson@gmail.com	203.464.2186	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:47 AM
Root, Diane	droottrrm@aol.com	16032987597	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:50 AM
Hope, Lucinda	lmhope46@gmail.com	603.524.7355	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:50 AM
Dodge, Corinne	corinnedodge@hotmail.com	+11603432575	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:51 AM
Kelley, Erin	ekelley@mrsd.org	203.241.7827	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:52 AM
Kopreski, Elisabeth	ekopreski@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:02 AM
Fagen, Shelly	fagenfam@yahoo.com	603433419218	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:03 AM
Robertson, Doug	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:09 AM
Moore, Susan	susan.moore.franconia@gmail.com	603.823.8050	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:09 AM
Perry, David	Dmailemail@gmail.com	603-487-2850	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:10 AM
Nardino, Marie	mdnardino@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:11 AM

Mulligan, Mary Jane	Not Given	Not Given	Public A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:14 AM
Ward, Jenna	jrward95@gmail.com	732.796.4137	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:18 AM
Feole, Danielle	feole.danielle@gmail.com	(978) 778-62	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:20 AM
Lewandowski, Jean	jlewando@hotmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:21 AM
Sundquist, Carolyn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:22 AM
Jamback, Susan	susanjamback@gmail.com	508.561.0380	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:24 AM
Greene, Maureen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:25 AM
Corkery, Catherine	catherine.corkery@sierraclub.org	603.224.8222	A Lobbyist	NH Sierra Club	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:25 AM
Kubit, Joy	joykubit@gmail.com	440.488.4724	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:31 AM
Samuels, Gary	samuelspatty@gmail.com	603.464.3143	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:24 AM
Weinberg, Sara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:26 AM
Perlstein, Rebecca	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:29 AM
Maynard, Bethany	bmoregirls603@yahoo.com	603.969.2799	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:30 AM
Bixby, Peter	peter.bixby@leg.state.nh.us	16037495659	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:31 AM
Hall, Andra	drandrahall@gmail.com	603.547.6250	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:31 AM
Kifer, Paula	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:32 AM
Stroup, William	keenestroup@gmail.com	603577411	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:34 AM
GIDDINGS, JAMES L	jgiddings@igc.org	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:35 AM
King, John	kingjohnpat@gmail.com	603.223.0139	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:41 AM
Phillips, Margery	Margeryphillips@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:43 AM
Bessey, Diane	dbessey@monarchschoolne.org	603-332-2848	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:43 AM
Vail, Suzanne	Suzanne.vail@leg.state.nh.us	603.234.0704	An Elected Official	Hillsborough County 30	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 9:38 PM
Seidner, Susan	ss8070@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 9:42 PM

			Public					
Speaks, Mitchell	mspeaks@ne.rr.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:08 PM	
Bishop, Madeline	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:39 PM	
Jenkins, Yvonne	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 9:23 AM	
Spencer, Kathy	kmswaldo@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 10:00 AM	
Jones, Melissa	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 10:39 AM	
Charlefour, Stephanie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:36 AM	
Warner, Kelly	kellwarner@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:39 AM	
Reed, Barbara D.	BDRreed74@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:42 AM	
Blanchard, Sandra	sandyblanchard3@gmail.com	603.724.3768	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:42 AM	
Moses, Gena	genacohenm@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:43 AM	
Field, Becky	fieldworkphotos@gmail.com	603.568.3174	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:43 AM	
Seaman, Richard	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:46 AM	
Vaughan, Elizabeth	lizfvaughan@hotmail.com	603.921.0444	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:46 AM	
Joseph, Michael	waljsb@yahoo.com	(603) 204-45	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:49 AM	
Seaman, Angelika	Not Given	603 504-8554	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:50 AM	
Billingham, Carla	billingham2@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:50 AM	
MCNAMEE, BRIGID	brigidmcnamee@yahoo.com	603.223.0139	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:52 AM	
Kavanagh, Tara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:55 AM	
Dontonville, Roger	rdontonville@gmail.com	603.632.7719	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:00 AM	
O'Neill, Faye	nhfaye@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:23 AM	
Backstrom, Karin	Karinlouise@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 8:27 PM	
Hamblet, Joan	joan.hamblet@leg.state.nh.us	603.205.4925	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 8:29 PM	

Walter, Ph.D., Cynthia	cawalter22@gmail.com	412-610-4327	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 8:38 PM
Smallwood, Carrie	carriesmallwood@hotmail.com	603.320.6149	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 8:42 PM
Atherton, John	JMAtherton.3@gmail.com	412.610.0134	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 8:48 PM
Bernet, Jennifer	bernet4rep@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 8:52 PM
Alphen, James H	jimalphen@comcast.net	312.636.4267	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 8:59 PM
Roy, Amy Clark	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 9:00 PM
Nolan, Laura	Thenolanhouse@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 9:00 PM
Fiset, Teresita	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 9:08 PM
Graham, Nancy	nancygraham806@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 9:09 PM
Gladstone, Gwendolyn	WAGLADSTONE@COMCAST.NET	603.475.5779	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 9:20 PM
Longman, Petra	petraelongman@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 9:33 PM
Wallus, Wendy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 9:38 PM
Seeley, Dana	danaseeley1712@gmail.com	603.759.4949	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:06 AM
Torpey, Jeanne	jtorp51@comcast.net	(603) 493-82	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:22 AM
Wazir, Safiya	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	My Constituents	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:25 AM
Platt, Elizabeth-Anne	lizanneplatt09@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:35 AM
Gordon, Margaret	Meggordon98@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:37 AM
Marcoux, Adam	adam.marcoux@hotmail.com	603.321.0634	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:38 AM
Lowen, Rosalind	roz.lowen@gmail.com	603.745.3604	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:40 AM
Falk, Cheri	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:41 AM
Hedberg, Viking	vahedberg@gmail.com	603 254-9873	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:52 AM
Markman, Ingrid	ingrid.markman@gmail.com	978.302.3660	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:53 AM
Bys, Pamela	pamelabys@gmail.com	603.369.7965	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:53 AM

			Public				
Hodsdon, Alan	alan.hodsdon@gmail.com	603-247-0390	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:55 AM
Thomas, Nicholas	nicholas.w.thomas@uconn.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/3/2021 1:55 AM
Wallace, Patricia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:05 AM
White, Shawn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:05 AM
Hayes, Lorri	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:07 AM
Ripley, Kathy	kathy-ripley@comcast.net	603.770.5036	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/3/2021 8:09 AM
Lieberman, Sheryl	saml54@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:10 AM
Merrell, Susan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:15 AM
Bourassa, Cheryl	cbourassa59@gmail.com	603.848.2651	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:15 AM
Martino, Linda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:15 AM
De Nitto, Diana	dbdenitto@yahoo.com	603.393.2476	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:16 AM
Rettew, Annie	abrettew@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:16 AM
Clark, Denise	denise.m.clark03055@gmail.com	603.673.5321	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:07 AM
Mason, Michelle	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:10 AM
Dakowicz, Dianne	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:14 AM
Dolkart, Vivian	viviandolkart@comcast.net	603.865.5117	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:57 AM
Douston, Samantha	doustons@nashua.edu	603.809.2132	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:57 AM
Paquette, Rebecca	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:57 AM
Hawkinson, Rachel	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:57 AM
Hayes, Lauren	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:59 AM
Livingston, Jessica	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:59 AM
Siberine, Kate	ksiberine@gmail.com	908.377.9394	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:59 AM

Lindpaintner, Lyn	lynlin@bluewin.ch	Not Given	Public A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:02 AM
Kindeke, Grace	gkindeke@afsc.org	603.305.5776	A Lobbyist	American Friends Service Committee	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:02 AM
Robbins, Annie	anniemrobbins@gmail.com	603.473.2000	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:03 AM
Dudek, Jason	jasondudek333@gmail.com	603.748.9569	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:06 AM
Buchanan, Ryan	rtbuch2018@gmail.com	619.961.8948	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:10 AM
Spencer, Oliver	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:11 AM
Bowles, Margaret	mcb2885@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:11 AM
Parker, Sharon	parker20@juno.com	603.863.7348	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:12 AM
Yerdon McLeod, Angela	ayerdon@crhc.org	603.568.5996	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:12 AM
Moses, Robert	rjconnect2@comcast.net	603.224.7289	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:15 AM
Kazin, Jeff	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:21 AM
La Vallee, Jill	I oppose SB 130 and HB 544 being added to SB 2	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:23 AM
French, Elaine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:24 AM
Hamer, Heidi	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:25 AM
Josephson, Tim	josephsonth@gmail.com	603.523.2023	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:28 AM
Garen, June	jzanesgaren@gmail.com	603.393.8134	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:30 AM
Arabas, Jill	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 7:17 PM
Davis, Gregory	glospreys@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 7:25 PM
Callahan, Elizabeth	ecallahan30@gmail.com	603.534.6124	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 7:26 PM
Yergeau, Paul	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 7:28 PM
Long, Julian	julianleelong@yahoo.com	603.767.1953	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 7:43 PM
Oxenham, Evan	evan.oxenham@gmail.com	603.727.9368	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 3:14 PM

McCue, Dara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 3:20 PM
Sturtevant, Jessica	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 3:28 PM
Evans, Connie	ckel@comcast.net	603.529.2364	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 3:55 PM
Kruithof, Leslie	Not Given	201.725.4641	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 4:25 PM
Eggleston, Patrick	eggleston4444@hotmail.com	603 554 8094	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 4:35 PM
Annand, Allison	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 5:15 PM
ovalle, anais	anais_ovalle@yahoo.com	201.912.7781	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 10:42 PM
Grassie, Chuck	chuck.grassie@leg.state.nh.us	16039787417	An Elected Official	Strafford 11		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 10:59 PM
Kelly, Mary	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 6:33 PM
Almy, Susan	susan.almy@comcast.net	603.448.4769	An Elected Official	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 6:39 PM
Stephenson, Skye	skyeayona@gmail.com	603.762.1259	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 9:52 PM
Weber, Jill	jill@frazilfarms.com	603.978.1263	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 10:29 PM
Mares, Daniel	AudioAlive@yahoo.com	603.458.5574	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 10:30 PM
Gordon, Laurie	Lmgord23@yahoo.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 4:54 AM
Zaenglein, Barbara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:47 AM
Zaenglein, Eric	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:50 AM
Brown, Stacy	stay1time@gmail.com	603.969.8646	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:54 AM
Champigny, Sarah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 7:50 PM
Adams, Dan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 7:54 PM
Westbrook, Annick	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 8:16 PM
Ferland, Joan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/1/2021 5:59 PM
Davison, Therese	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/1/2021 8:04 PM
Brodeur, Michelle	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/2/2021 7:54 AM

Griffin, Michael	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 12:57 AM
Cutting, Sarah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 7:59 AM
Orvis, Sharyn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 8:17 AM
Hunewill, Christine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 8:30 AM
Tirrell, Zachary	zbtirrell@gmail.com	603-289-9221	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 9:15 AM
Harrison, Christina	Tinabee_2001@yahoo.com	603.674.5977	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 10:52 AM
Coss, Adrian	ac1459@unhlaw.unh.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself—I oppose the divisive concepts language in HB 2	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 11:27 AM
Rasmussen, Elissa	elissa@evanshatz.com	845.721.1885	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 11:28 AM
Beeson, Roberta	roberta.beeson@gmail.com	603.525.4410	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 11:50 AM
Smith, Maja	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 12:31 PM
GLENN, CYNTHIA	cglenn410@gmail.com	603.521.8214	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 2:07 PM
Burhoe, Samuel	sburhoe@leafschoolnh.org	603-493-7636	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 2:09 PM
Field, Bryan	brysciguy@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 2:54 PM
Ginzler, Denise	dginzler@mindspring.com	603.878.3702	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 3:02 PM
Peterson, Lynn	lapeterson412@yahoo.com	603.520.6519	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 3:06 PM
Weston, Joyce	jweston14@roadrunner.com	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 3:07 PM
Martel, Zoe	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 3:37 PM
Amtmann, Natalie	natalieamtmann@gmail.com	603.953.6331	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 3:42 PM
West, Ian	iandwestnh@gmail.com	603.547.5382	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 3:45 PM
Wallace, Andrew	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 6:00 PM
Malo, Casey	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 6:59 PM
Green, Katherine	dairyqueen18@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 7:04 PM
Kilar, Megan	empresith@gmail.com	603.748.0148	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 11:47 AM

Gregory, Knouff	Not Given	603-762-9233	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 12:44 PM
Zajano, Nancy	Nanczajano@aol.com	614.563.7325	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 2:43 PM
Rasche, Patrice	mattieandriley@yahoo.com	603.783.9360	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 2:55 PM
Rasche, Stephen	mattieandriley@gmail.com	603.783.9360	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 2:55 PM
Chase, Wendy	wendy.chase@comcast.net	603.319.7259	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 3:00 PM
Lezcano, Jose	joselexicon@gmail.com	603.313.3027	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 8:18 PM
Bluhm, Robert	bbbluhmmm1953@gmail.com	603.732.8918	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 11:22 AM
Oxenham, Lee	leeoxenham@comcast.net	603.727.9368	An Elected Official	Sullivan Co., District 1	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 1:54 PM
Carole, Kimberly	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 2:31 PM
Horne, Leslie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 4:03 PM
Eggleston, Penny	pegglestonlib@yahoo.com	603.554.8094	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 4:47 PM
DeMark, Richard	demarknh114@gmail.com	603.520.5582	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 5:06 PM
DeMark, Harriet	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 5:07 PM
Meyers, Mary	maryenrica@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 5:50 PM
Parsons, Kimberly	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 6:11 PM
Thompson, Laura	nicnmom@hotmail.com	603.553.0100	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 6:13 PM
Marston, Stacie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 6:13 PM
Scott, Charlotte	charlottemariescott@gmail.com	603.772.6073	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 6:17 PM
Kennedy, Francesca	francesca1@metrocast.net	603.312.7858	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 9:36 AM
Race, Jasmine	jasminemr@gmail.com	603.203.7321	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 9:36 AM
Hinse, Julie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 9:47 AM
Kerman, Kathryn	kkerman@phoenixfarm.org	603.876.4562	State Agency Staff	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 10:29 AM
Ballard, Larry	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 11:22 AM
Lockhart, Kristi	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 12:20 PM

			Public				
Lockhart, Jameson	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 12:23 PM
Chorma, Maureen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 12:35 PM
Kenney, Kayla	kayla.a.putnam@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 1:13 PM
Affeldt, Rosemary	rosemary.affeldt@comcast.net	603.632.4934	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:17 PM
Calnan, Kary	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:58 PM
McComish, Nancy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 6:06 PM
Gottlieb, Lisa	gottlieb1a@gmail.com	603.262.0037	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 6:14 PM
Zajano, Emily	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 6:15 PM
Griffiths, Jeremy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 6:22 PM
Berman, Fran	f.berman@comcast.net	603.502.9503	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 6:32 PM
Wentzell, Kristina	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 6:37 PM
barber, tpry	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 3:01 PM
Favreau, Felicia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:41 AM
Lee, Catherine	catherine.lee@keene.edu	603.397.9760	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:41 AM
Greene, Ashley	Ashleylyn.j@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 12:38 PM
Saint-Marc, Talesha	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 1:26 PM
Sauber, Nicole	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	4/30/2021 1:46 PM
Cheshire, Cynthia	Not Given	603 827 3288	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 1:20 PM
Busby, Carol	carolannbusby@gmail.com	603.851.4334	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:54 PM
Patton, Sally	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:58 PM
Edry, Derek	derekedry@gmail.com	603.548.1270	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 4:28 PM
Brault, Michelle	gracililly0507@yahoo.com	603.841.6311	A Member of the	Myself	Support	No	4/29/2021 11:29 PM

			Public					
Feder, Marsha	marshafeder@gmail.com	603.860.8743	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 6:54 AM	
stefanik, andrea	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 8:32 AM	
Sturtz, John	jps2v@virginia.edu	603-275-7281	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 8:47 AM	
Aronson, Elizabeth	parks.elizabeth@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:52 AM	
Vallier-Kaplan, Mary	marycvk@gmail.com	603-924-3217	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:53 AM	
Tremblay, George	gctremblay3@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:53 AM	
Holden, Caitlin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:54 AM	
Hansen, Alisha	Alishahansen@comcast.net	603.913.9033	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:58 PM	
Dell, Dave	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:58 PM	
Csillag, Charlotte	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:58 PM	
Mehra, Aashna	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:01 PM	
Steimel, Sarah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:03 PM	
Balachandar, Shreshta	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:03 PM	
LaValley, Laura	Laura.lavalley@yahoo.com	603.583.6578	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:03 PM	
Gagne, Tara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:05 PM	
Boyle, Stephanie	StarryNight04@gmail.com	603.944.5057	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:08 PM	
Jessee, Lynn	lynnjessee@comcast.net	16036658168	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 7:17 PM	
SAVINI, TAMMIE	tammiesavini@gmail.com	603-367-9419	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 8:36 PM	
Holland, Robin	robin@simplebouquets.com	603.998.8442	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:00 PM	
Fairbanks, Brenda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:21 PM	
Knapp-Broas, Hannah	knapp22h@mtholyoke.edu	603.748.9835	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 2:01 AM	
Hood, Kathleen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 8:45 AM	

			Public				
Reid, Lucinda	cindy_reid27@yahoo.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 8:45 AM
Kaplan, Susan	sskaplan01@aol.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 1:35 PM
Mueller, Pam	pammueler7@gmail.com	603.491.0570	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 3:49 PM
Davis, Michelle	mdavis@nhlakes.org	Not Given	A Lobbyist	NH LAKES	Neutral	No	4/30/2021 3:52 PM
Canada, Elizabeth	elizabeth.canada@ppnne.org	Not Given	A Lobbyist	Planned Parenthood New Hampshire Action Fund	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 3:54 PM
Morse, David	Not Given	603-209-2614	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:12 PM
Malmberg, Jane	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:16 PM
Eshelman, Richard	Yasuru@msn.com	603.759.5645	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:21 PM
Trader, Patricia	ptrader@musician.org	16034911411	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:21 PM
Crosby, Ruth	ruthcrosby@me.com	978.314.6779	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:25 PM
Beaudoin, Jennifer	jenniferbeaudoin@comcast.net	603.261.6497	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:32 PM
Strout, Rebecca	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:36 PM
Staples, Monica	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:40 PM
McDowell, Catherine	cmcdowell@ne.rr.com	603.723.9357	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:47 PM
Vozzella, Kathryn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:49 PM
Podlesney, Teresa	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 2:37 PM
Lothrop, Carol	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:05 PM
Robarge, Jeremy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:05 PM
Walker, Arthur	awalker@ne.rr.com	603.357.4994	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:37 PM
Robertshaw, Stephen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:37 PM
Calnan, Skye	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:38 PM
Sagona, Constance	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:40 PM

Ace-Dodge, Brianna	peacebreeze727@yahoo.com	570.369.0878	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:45 PM
De Geofroy, Kate	katymarie7@gmail.com	603.969.8617	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 4:46 PM
Hampton, Doris	dandmhamp38@gmail.com	603.783.4418	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 9:49 AM
Cangialosi, Karen	kcangial@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 9:50 AM
Warner, Tammy	Tammy.warner@keene.edu	860.748.9063	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 9:58 AM
Hickey, Amanda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 9:59 AM
Anderson, Brian	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 9:59 AM
Hays, Cynthia	chays@keene.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 9:59 AM
Stemp, William	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 9:59 AM
Teitelman, Leila	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:00 AM
Waller, James	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:00 AM
Weiner, Robert	coachster1@gmail.com	603.762.1759	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:00 AM
Sturtz, Tanya	tsturtz@keene.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:01 AM
Katherine, Potts	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:02 AM
Clark, Elizabeth	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:02 AM
Hart, John	hartjo07@gmail.com	203.558.1951	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:02 AM
Driscoll, Ann	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:03 AM
lambert, Emily	emilynoellelambert@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:04 AM
Ewing, Louise	Not Given	603.203.4546	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:04 AM
Chace, Gina	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:04 AM
Gagne Cloutier, Jessica	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:04 AM
Wakefield, Michael	mwakefield2@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:06 AM

Sharpe, Emily	Not Given	814.933.6858	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:07 AM
Wilhelm, Jennifer	fatpeachfarmers@gmail.com	603.516.5610	A Member of the Public	Myself and my business, Fat Peach Farm	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:33 AM
Margaret, Smith	msmith@keene.edu	802.738.8990	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:35 AM
Barnes, Jessica	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:39 AM
Heaton, Karen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 4:50 PM
Bowman, Jane	jnbwmn@gmail.com	603-924-6970	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	4/30/2021 7:51 AM
Arnold, Lynn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 9:12 AM
Bauer, Dorothy	dottiebauer@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:22 AM
Denehy, Brendan	bdenehy@charter.net	603.680.1003	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:25 AM
Timney, Mark	mtimney@keene.edu	603.321.2213	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:25 AM
Cobb, Russell	rcobb67@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:26 AM
Carpentier, Cristina	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:31 AM
Thelen, Brett	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:33 AM
Fichtenholtz, Harlan	Not Given	Not Given	State Agency Staff	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:39 AM
Endrizzi, Matt	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:39 AM
Smith, Katherine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:42 AM
Yen, Lidia	lyen@afsc.org	603.848.8520	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 1:15 PM
Paris, Amy	amyeparis@gmail.com	617.971.7826	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 3:32 PM
Kirschner, Hunter	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 3:37 PM
Reber, Chandra	creber@cweonline.org	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 12:20 PM
McLaughlin, Cynthia	cmclaughlin@keene.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 12:25 PM
Emerson, Anne	ademerson4180@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 12:30 PM
Bradbury-Koster, Ben	Benbradkost@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 12:30 PM

			Public					
Hunter, Allysha	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 12:34 PM	
Martin, Rodger	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:58 AM	
Lurie, Elizabeth	ehlurie@comcast.net	603.469.3810	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 1:27 PM	
Hichborn, Ashley	ahichborn97@gmail.com	603.770.4286	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 1:49 PM	
OHara, Laurie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:25 AM	
Peery, Susan	susan.peery@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:25 AM	
Teitelman, Tamar	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:53 AM	
Helrich, Robin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:54 AM	
Webb, Lucy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:54 AM	
Noyes, Christopher	Chris@crosstowncourierservice.com	413-657-6293	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	4/29/2021 8:04 AM	
Chalice, Michele	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 10:19 PM	
Koning, Catherine	ckoning@ne.rr.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 8:55 PM	
Davis, Johnna	jdavis@metrocast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 6:18 AM	
Augustyn, Rita	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 6:05 PM	
Mcgrade, Lucy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 12:26 PM	
Pearce, Lauren	lauren.pearce@ksc.keene.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 5:54 PM	
Gonzalez, Johanedcy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 7:01 PM	
Bucklin, Audra	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 9:43 AM	
Kreitler, Margaret	Mvkreitler@gmail.com	603-279-6150	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 2:20 PM	
Dunn, Bill	wearethedunns@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:11 AM	
Boyer, Jeanelle	jboyer@keene.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:13 AM	
Zoll, Jennifer	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:14 AM	

Sylvern, Craig	Not Given	Not Given	Public A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:14 AM
Hightower, Whitney	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:18 AM
Parsons, Molly	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:03 AM
Honeycutt, Karen	khoneycutt@keene.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:05 AM
Pascu, Colleen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:05 AM
Fischer, Anne	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:06 AM
Pedroza, Patricia	ppedroza@keene.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:09 AM
Child, Cheryl	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:10 AM
Bigaj, Steve	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:11 AM
Pacilio, Liz	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:20 AM
Benning, Sarah	info@sarahkbenning.com	443.928.9257	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:20 AM
OSMUN, ROGER	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 11:21 AM
Burnell, Elizabeth	alilrandr1@gmail.com	603.723.0381	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 9:15 AM
Hollenbeck, Heather	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 10:33 AM
Scott, Richard	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	4/27/2021 3:49 PM
Lizotte, Kristin	kkliz@live.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 5:22 PM
Perry, Apryl	apryl.perry@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 6:24 PM
gillis, kim	kgillis@live.com	16038924271	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 5:05 PM
Joyce, Ellen	ejoyce1961@gmail.com	603.558.1961	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 6:39 AM
Sherin, Margaret	margaret.j.sherin.med@dartmouth.edu	203.216.3416	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 7:42 AM
Cordell, Miriam	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 8:26 AM
Koch, Helmut	helmut.koch.2001@gmail.com	603.491.3306	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 12:06 PM

Marques, Olivia	Not Given	860.866.6461	Public A Member of the Public	Myself, K-12 schools, and all colleges in the state	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 4:38 PM
Rodriguez Torrent, Michael	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 6:30 PM
Spinney, Shaun	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 9:38 AM
Leah, Pelkey	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 4:52 PM
Desmarais, Doreen	doreend@netzero.net	603.608.6211	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 5:17 PM
Mitschele, Matthew	m_mitschele@hotmail.com	908.310.9643	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 7:51 PM
Rowen, Hopkins	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 1:21 PM
Gerrior, Jess	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 2:31 PM
Opolski, Ian	iopolski@gmail.com	978990374	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 5:11 PM
D, Kara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 8:25 PM
Arcidiacono, Kathryn	kea613@gmail.com	603.489.7768	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 8:28 PM
Draper, Liza	Lizadrap@aol.com	603.477.4753	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 8:35 PM
David, Matt	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 10:54 PM
Leese, Matthew	matthew.leese@keene.edu	603.465.8602	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 2:33 PM
Reilly, Kristen	kreilly18@yahoo.com	603.924.0094	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 5:32 PM
Parmelee, Caitlyn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 2:55 PM
Gilligan, Heather	hmgilligan@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 3:44 PM
Kiley-LeMay, Marcia	Alton	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 10:35 AM
Schur, Anna	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 10:37 AM
Guevarra, Catherine	catguevarra@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 10:56 AM
Davis, Jeffrey	sasha.davis@keene.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 11:04 AM
Germana, Nicholas	herthausa@gmail.com	603.762.8139	A Member of the	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 11:08 AM

			Public				
Burton, Caryn	cfburton66@netscape.net	603.755.2772	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 9:06 AM
Seligman, Leaf	leaf1231@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 9:11 AM
brown, richard	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 9:14 AM
gitelson, jonathan	jon@jonathangitelson.com	773.459.7642	State Agency Staff	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 9:34 AM
Dunn, Rebecca	rdunn@keene.edu	603.827.3520	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 8:02 AM
Jennings, Karen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 8:55 AM
Noboa, Danette	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 9:33 AM
Jahos, Ellen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 9:42 AM
Gregg, Robin	rgregg@pobox.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 9:49 AM
Bracy, Sue	marysuebracy@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 10:02 AM
BURLINGAME, TERRY	mexicananh@gmail.com	603.387.7761	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 10:44 AM
Larrick, Laura	laura.larrick@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/23/2021 4:30 PM
Till, Mary	maryforderry@yahoo.com	603.203.1961	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 11:53 AM
Bregani, Olivia	oliviabregani@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 3:59 PM
Frostholm, Margaret	pfrostholm@gmail.com	508.776.2707	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 4:46 PM
Bruce, Susan	susanb.red@mac.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 4:47 PM
Adams, Melanie	runmelrunnh@gmail.com	336.430.9146	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 5:21 AM
Rennix, Chris	mcrenn88@charter.net	757.784.4213	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 7:21 AM

Senate Remote Testify

Finance Committee Testify List for Bill HB2 on 2021-05-04

Support: 9 Oppose: 227 Neutral: 3 Total to Testify: 45

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Cowell, Jackie	jcowell@earlylearningnh.org	603.226.7900	A Lobbyist	Early Learning NH	Support	Yes	4/23/2021 4:06 PM
Wilke, Mary	wilke.mary@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/24/2021 10:54 AM
Barlow, Angela	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself and KSCEA (Keene State Educators Association)	Oppose	Yes	4/26/2021 7:58 AM
Tam-Semmens, Helen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/26/2021 6:16 PM
Perkins-Howland, Janet	jperkins@gwhc.com	603.234.5905	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/28/2021 7:33 PM
Marino, Doug	doug@603forward.org	603-686-3283	A Lobbyist	603 Forward	Oppose	Yes	4/27/2021 6:30 PM
Vincent, Laura	lvlauravincent5@gmail.com	603.783.4849	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/26/2021 3:18 PM
Good, Jules	jules@neighborhoodaccess.org	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 11:20 AM
Kosta, Elizabeth	lizkosta@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/28/2021 10:49 AM
Gerding, Matthew	mgerding554@gmail.com	603.568.0268	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/29/2021 3:36 PM
Want, Leslie	BOSCward4@mansd.org	603-438-9682	An Elected Official	Manchester Board of School Committee	Oppose	Yes	4/29/2021 3:47 PM
Wilson, Morgan	morganwilsonportfolio@gmail.com	603.477.1819	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 10:23 AM
Kim, Sue	Not Given	603-654-2181	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 5:26 PM
Clafin, Michael	mclafin@homesahead.org	603.398.5749	A Member of the Public	AHEAD, Inc.	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 2:35 PM
Prince, Sonia	ssprince1@comcast.net	603.578.0786	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 6:02 PM
Weeks, Daniel	dweeks@revisionenergy.com	603.264.2877	A Member of the Public	ReVision Energy	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 5:49 PM
Trudel, Karen	tktrudel1@gmail.com	16034942726	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	4/30/2021 8:15 PM
Sherman, Ilyssa	ijv2@wildcats.unh.edu	603.702.2095	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/1/2021 10:53 AM
Hampe, Coral	clhampe@comcast.net	603.986.7573	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/2/2021 7:57 PM
Rescsanski, William	flatlandyankee@gmail.com	603-283-8155	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 10:20 AM
Johnson, Annie	anniemjohnson@gmail.com	203.464.2186	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 10:47 AM
Welkowitz, Larry	lawrence.welkowitz@leg.state.nh.us	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 11:01 AM
Bomersbach, James	james.bomersbach@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Neutral	Yes	5/3/2021 12:04 PM
Hilton, Kate	kate.b.hilton@gmail.com	617.620.6293	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 12:26 PM
Koutroubas, Alex	alex@dennehybouley.com	603.440.5113	A Lobbyist	ACEC-NH	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 2:10 PM

Carey, Abigail	abigailjcarey@gmail.com	603.921.2207	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/2/2021 1:52 PM
Nelson, Deborah	dbaconnelson@gmail.com	603.359.2306	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 9:36 AM
Duran, Carrie	carriemartinduran@gmail.com	603.219.6777	A Member of the Public	Developmental Disability Community	Support	Yes	5/3/2021 2:26 PM
Ramas, Dr. Marie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself & NH Medical Society & NH Academy of Family Physicians	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 2:37 PM
Perkins-Howland, Dr. Janet	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 2:39 PM
Toland, Maris	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 3:21 PM
Tanner, Linda	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 10:28 PM
Dever, Carolyn	Carolyndever@gmail.com	615.364.7954	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 7:13 PM
Kapadia, Nirav	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 7:36 PM
Valant, Valerie	valerie.j.valant@hitchcock.org	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 8:28 PM
Howes, Deb	debhowes@myfairpoint.net	603.930.9248	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/3/2021 9:04 PM
lademan, janine	jnine10nh@yahoo.com	603.769.1614	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 12:51 AM
hackett, dana	dana12384@gmail.com	603.986.5898	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 12:10 PM
Gaumont, Thomas	tomgaumont63@gmail.com	603.203.8638	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 10:48 AM
O'Grady, Clare	cogrady@crhc.org	603.391.8126	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 10:48 AM
Kinney, Rev. Dr. Gail	gailhrdi@aol.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 12:06 AM
Meyer, Lucas	lucassmeyer@gmail.com	603.568.2511	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes	5/4/2021 4:16 PM
Calcutt, Dennis	dcalcutt@comcast.net	603.491.2070	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes	5/4/2021 6:12 PM
Wester, Liz	elizmwester@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Neutral	Yes	5/4/2021 4:31 PM
Lemay, Brandon	brandon@radnh.org	603.391.1178	A Lobbyist	Rights & Democracy	Oppose	Yes	5/4/2021 6:19 PM
Zulaski, Eric	rabbitfierce@gmail.com	603.703.7605	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:11 PM
Huyck, J. Matthew	Not Given	603.676.8272	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/5/2021 4:39 PM
Stephenson, Natalie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/5/2021 5:46 PM
Sarah, Samaha	Sallysamaha@gmail.com	603 823-5314	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:17 PM
Hammond, Riley	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:23 PM
Terwilliger, Linda	lindaterwilliger364@gmail.com	603.667.3021	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:36 PM
burchsted, denise	denise@peaceevolution.org	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:58 PM
Bennett, Olivia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 3:36 PM
Cav, Kaan	cavkaan@gmail.com	603.845.5004	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 3:40 PM
Minickiello, Linda	massasecumsummer@gmail.com	603.381.1986	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:37 PM
Raiche-Stephens, Kathy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:13 PM
Aldrich, Casey	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/5/2021 3:54 PM
Gawron, Raquel	rgawron88@gmail.com	603.213.0839	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:58 PM
Lewis, Dresden	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 3:02 PM

Dutton, Lloyd	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 3:07 PM
Henriques, Olivia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 3:08 PM
Marcotte-Jenkins, Susan	jenkins913@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 4:04 PM
Polo, Peggy	peggy_polo@yahoo.com	16032731159	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 4:25 PM
Bickford, Lindsey	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 4:42 PM
G, Ari	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:45 AM
Chehames, Bonnie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:04 AM
Ingalls, Marianthe	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:50 AM
Wood, Carole	Cadawood@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 11:57 AM
Wood, David	Not Given	603.865.7473	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:03 PM
McGee, Dan	dan.mcgee@redriver.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself as COO of Red River Technology LLC only opposed to section 330 (HB 544) not the rest of the bill	Neutral	No	5/4/2021 12:04 PM
McPeck, Gail	gailamcpeek@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:19 PM
Warnock, Laurie	Lwarnock62@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:19 PM
MacLeod, Shannon	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:24 PM
Collopy, Brian	bfcollopy@yahoo.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:33 PM
Queathem, Rowan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:38 PM
Lemoi, Claude	claudelmoi@gmail.com	603-523-2224	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:40 PM
Buttrick, Rev. John	fayejhn@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 1:57 PM
Blanchette-Goyette, Juliet	veggiecat.juliet@gmail.com	603.591.4689	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:08 PM
Iudice, Melissa	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:11 PM
Sanborn, Laurie	lesanborn@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:13 PM
mcgonagle, jan	Mcgonaglejan@gmail.com	603.762.6445	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:16 PM
Kilday, Catherine	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 2:55 PM
Groth, Nathan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 3:20 PM
Salmon, Nancy	Not Given	603.924.6260	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/4/2021 4:24 AM
Libis, Claudia	clibis13@gmail.com	603724-0733	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:49 AM
Aranzabal, Luis	luisaranzabal40@gmail.com	603.461.1834	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 5:55 AM
Robinson, Ellis	ellismmrobinson@gmail.com	239.470.1092	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:05 AM
Garcea, Kelly	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 6:30 AM
Bragg, Molly	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 7:52 AM
Reardon, John	Not Given	603.224.8151	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 8:55 AM
Budd, Susannah	susannahbudd@gmail.com	603.731.4647	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:13 AM
popp, martha	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:41 AM
LeBow, Belle	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:56 AM

Kates, Becky	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/4/2021 9:58 AM
Doscher, Paul	Not Given	603.529.2653	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:09 AM
Antman, Talia	talia.antman26@gmail.com	603.973.5127	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:28 AM
Legere, Sherry	doverpoint1062@gmail.com	603.767.8323	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:28 AM
Peroff, David	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:28 AM
Phoenix, Shelby	phoenix.shelby@gmail.com	603.686.9737	A Member of the Public	Myself- Shelby Phoenix		Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:33 PM
Reeves, Rene	renerreeves@gmail.com	603.547.7708	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:35 PM
McLaughlin, Barbara	brbmclaughlin42@gmail.com	760.458.9668	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:35 PM
Jenness, Amy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/4/2021 12:37 PM
Hoffman, Jordan	jordanhoffman12@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:37 AM
Bernardin, Melissa	melissabernardin7@gmail.com	603.828.2442	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/4/2021 10:46 AM
Curry, Kathryn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:07 PM
Vogel, Rory	rory.e.vogel@gmail.com	(508) 740-99	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:39 PM
French, Robert	ref.design@outlook.com	603.444.0268	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:39 PM
Rief, Kea	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:59 PM
Riendeau, Jacquelyn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:10 PM
Pereira, Leah	leah@thepereiras.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:13 PM
Hinebauch, Melissa	melhinebauch@gmail.com	603-224-4866	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 11:10 PM
Shinnlinger, David	daveshinnlinger@gmail.com	603-523-2249	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:46 PM
Lyman, Sharon	Lymangang@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:53 PM
Wilson, Amy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:24 PM
Bashaw, Maranda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:14 PM
Lunan-Hill, Rachel	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:27 PM
McDonough, Karen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:31 PM
vitolo, marissa	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:42 PM
Martens, Eric	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:47 PM
Hamilton, Kelly	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:52 PM
Pim, Marjorie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:56 PM
Lafleur, Lisa	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:56 PM
Kapadia, Alison	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:57 PM
Moenter, Ben	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:59 PM
Hebert, Joel	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:00 PM
Olsen Allen, Tara	tazbo24@yahoo.com	16034432754	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:03 PM
Goldner, Wayne	wlgoldner@outlook.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:13 PM
Forey, Keelan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:32 PM
Pruett, Amy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:46 PM
Drehobl, Heidi	hedum@msn.com	603.661.5283	A Member of the Public	Myself		Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:58 PM

Morgan, Meredith	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 4:05 PM
Chance, Chris	Connect@DrChrisChance.com	603-568-9206	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:05 PM
Mulholland, Catherine	cmulholland134@gmail.com	603.523.4497	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:59 PM
Breault, David	dbreault@lobo.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:35 PM
Coons, Hilary	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 5:36 PM
Cusson, Jeanne	Jsirgus@comcast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:59 PM
Bailey, Cheryl	cheryl_Bailey11@aol.com	603.991.9555	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:12 PM
Foster, Debra	debhfoster@yahoo.com	603.774.5932	A Member of the Public	Myself as a property tax payer and former school board member	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 6:14 PM
Bryde, Jon	savesmade@yahoo.com	603.682.0410	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:12 PM
Smith, Lauren	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 7:13 PM
Fisher, Ellen	efishercat@gmail.com	603.359.1273	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:04 PM
Ackerman, Donna	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 2:37 PM
Reed, Barbara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:39 AM
Spencer, Rob	kentstusa@aol.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 10:20 AM
Donovan, Terri	terridd@metrocast.net	603-832-9232	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 4:41 PM
Denton, Melissa	melissa.denton@outlook.com	603.706.2790	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 9:04 AM
Ballou, Bronwen	bbballou@comcast.net	603.496.4300	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:53 PM
Claire, Celestin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:56 PM
Eaton, Christian	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 1:38 PM
Gowdy, Kirsten	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 8:24 PM
Coffin, Meredith	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 8:57 PM
Cronin, Elizabeth	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/2/2021 8:59 PM
Donahue, Corina	cldonahue78@aol.com	16037700858	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 12:06 AM
Cecilia, Rich	cecilia.rich@leg.state.nh.us	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:04 AM
Gigliello, Heather	heathergigliello28@gmail.com	603.249.6798	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:08 AM
LaFlamme, Natalie	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:15 AM
Hayes, Lydia	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 9:58 AM
Curran, Juliet	jsbc317@hotmail.com	603.502.7578	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 8:34 AM
Lockhart, Scott	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 12:21 PM
Lockhart, Maddox	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 12:23 PM
Eckert, Kelsie	Keckert@sau45.org	603.748.2063	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 3:43 PM
Darby, Emily	emilydarby717@gmail.com	302.373.2367	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 7:07 PM
Conway, Deirdre	4deirdre4@gmail.com	603.530.2510	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 5:42 PM
Miller, Gerald	chipandsheila@metrocast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 6:36 PM
Hamblin, Lisa	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 6:39 PM
Zwimer, Ruth	Not Given	603.588.2879	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/3/2021 3:57 AM

Champigny, Kevin	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/2/2021 7:52 PM
Patten, Becky	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	5/1/2021 1:57 PM
Starkey, Teresa	teresa.starkey6@gmail.com	603.303.8210	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	5/1/2021 7:41 PM
Krikorian, Linnell	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:50 PM
Tames, Alison	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:53 PM
Prince, David	pyneprince@gmail.com	603.578.0786	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 6:07 PM
Morrison, Kathryn	Kmmvdc@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 6:27 PM
Shaw, Ronni	ronnishaw@comcast.net	615.631.1973	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 7:24 PM
Marshall, Elizabeth	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 7:29 PM
Panish, Paul	ppanish@panishnet.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 5:42 PM
Bau, Dorothy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:23 AM
Wynn, Charlotte	cwynn	316.558.2618	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 10:00 AM
Chekuri, Bhargavi	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 7:28 AM
Arnold, Christopher	carnold21685@yahoo.com	603.568.6322	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/30/2021 7:18 PM
Noyes, Christopher	Chris@crosstowncourierservice.com	413-657-6293	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	4/29/2021 8:04 AM
Gilligan, Heather	hmgilligan@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 3:44 PM
Spinney, Shaun	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 9:38 AM
Leah, Pelkey	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 4:52 PM
Desmarais, Doreen	doreend@netzero.net	603.608.6211	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 5:17 PM
Mitschele, Matthew	m_mitschele@hotmail.com	908.310.9643	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 7:51 PM
Burnell, Elizabeth	alilrandr1@gmail.com	603.723.0381	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 9:15 AM
Hollenbeck, Heather	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 10:33 AM
Scott, Richard	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	4/27/2021 3:49 PM
Lizotte, Kristin	kkliz@live.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 5:22 PM
Perry, Apryl	apryl.perry@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 6:24 PM
gillis, kim	kgillis@live.com	16038924271	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 5:05 PM
Joyce, Ellen	ejoyce1961@gmail.com	603.558.1961	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 6:39 AM
Sherin, Margaret	margaret.j.sherin.med@dartmouth.edu	203.216.3416	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 7:42 AM
Cordell, Miriam	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 8:26 AM
Pearce, Lauren	lauren.pearce@ksc.keene.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 5:54 PM
Gonzalez, Johanedcy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 7:01 PM
Bucklin, Audra	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/29/2021 9:43 AM
Chalice, Michele	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 10:19 PM
Koning, Catherine	ckoning@ne.rr.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 8:55 PM
Davis, Johnna	jdavis@metrocast.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 6:18 AM
Augustyn, Rita	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 6:05 PM
Mcgrade, Lucy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 12:26 PM

Rowen, Hopkins	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 1:21 PM
Gerrior, Jess	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 2:31 PM
Opolski, Ian	iopolski@gmail.com	978990374	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 5:11 PM
D, Kara	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 8:25 PM
Arcidiacono, Kathryn	kea613@gmail.com	603.489.7768	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 8:28 PM
Draper, Liza	Lizadrap@aol.com	603.477.4753	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 8:35 PM
David, Matt	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 10:54 PM
Koch, Helmut	helmut.koch.2001@gmail.com	603.491.3306	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 12:06 PM
Marques, Olivia	Not Given	860.866.6461	A Member of the Public	Myself, K-12 schools, and all colleges in the state	Oppose	No	4/28/2021 4:38 PM
Rodriguez Torrent, Michael	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/27/2021 6:30 PM
Dunn, Rebecca	rdunn@keene.edu	603.827.3520	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 8:02 AM
Jennings, Karen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 8:55 AM
Burton, Caryn	cfburton66@netscape.net	603.755.2772	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 9:06 AM
Seligman, Leaf	leaf1231@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 9:11 AM
brown, richard	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 9:14 AM
gitelson, jonathan	jon@jonathangitelson.com	773.459.7642	State Agency Staff	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 9:34 AM
Kiley-LeMay, Marcia	Alton	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 10:35 AM
Schur, Anna	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 10:37 AM
Guevarra, Catherine	catguevarra@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 10:56 AM
Davis, Jeffrey	sasha.davis@keene.edu	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 11:04 AM
Germana, Nicholas	herthausa@gmail.com	603.762.8139	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 11:08 AM
Leese, Matthew	matthew.leese@keene.edu	603.465.8602	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 2:33 PM
Reilly, Kristen	kreilly18@yahoo.com	603.924.0094	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 5:32 PM
Parnelee, Caitlyn	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 2:55 PM
Till, Mary	maryforderry@yahoo.com	603.203.1961	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 11:53 AM
Bregani, Olivia	oliviabregani@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 3:59 PM
Frostholm, Margaret	pfrostholm@gmail.com	508.776.2707	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 4:46 PM
Bruce, Susan	susanb.red@mac.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 4:47 PM
Adams, Melanie	runmelrunnh@gmail.com	336.430.9146	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 5:21 AM
Rennix, Chris	mcrenn88@charter.net	757.784.4213	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/26/2021 7:21 AM
Noboa, Danette	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 9:33 AM
Jahos, Ellen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 9:42 AM
Gregg, Robin	rgregg@pobox.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 9:49 AM
Bracy, Sue	marysuebracy@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 10:02 AM
BURLINGAME, TERRY	mexicananh@gmail.com	603.387.7761	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	4/25/2021 10:44 AM

Larrick, Laura

laura.larrick@gmail.com

Not Given

A Member of the Public Myself

Oppose No

4/23/2021 4:30 PM

Testimony

**Senate Finance Committee Hearing on HB 2
May 4, 2021**

Chairman Daniels and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the potential impact of HB 2 on the New Hampshire College Tuition Savings Advisory Commission (pp 68-75). For the record, my name is Ed MacKay and prior NH-related experiences include serving as Chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire, head of the New Hampshire Higher Education Commission, member/chair of the College Tuition Savings Plan ("529") Advisory Commission, and member of the Steering Committee for Workforce Accelerator 2025, an effort sponsored by the Business & Industry Association, the NH Charitable Foundation, and Fidelity. Currently I serve as chair of the Foundation for New Hampshire Community Colleges. However, this commentary presents my personal views and does not represent any organization or entity.

The initial proposal embedded in HB 2 was inconsistent with the commitment made to New Hampshire citizens when the "529" plan was established. That commitment was "Annual assessments less any administrative costs received from the New Hampshire college tuition savings plan established under RSA 195-H shall be credited to the trust fund to provide scholarships for the benefit of residents of the state pursuing programs of study at eligible educational institutions within the state." Fortunately, the House approved budget – with unanimous Division II of House Finance support – affirmed that commitment and eliminated the proposal to divert 60% of assessment revenue to a new forgivable loan program.

The Commission has been extraordinarily successful in honoring that commitment and with the expanded responsibility for the Governor's Scholarship Program (GSP), is fully capable offering our residents a set of scholarship opportunities that are critical to meeting state workforce and economic vitality challenges and are *fully sustainable without any additional General Fund support*. No change in statute is required, and based on discussions during their March 8th meeting, the Commission members are willing to quickly initiate processes to incorporate minor revisions in related Administrative Rules that will facilitate implementation of this plan with very little, if any, cost.

Each of the three Commission programs (GSP, Annual Award, and Endowment Program) provides a needed component of support for our residents with financial need, and with the programs' financial sustainability confirmed, offers the encouragement and means to pursue and complete postsecondary education and *Stay Work Play* in New Hampshire.

The Governor's Scholarship Program supports Pell-eligible high school graduates going directly on to college in NH and matriculating on a full-time basis with a grant of \$1,000 per year, or \$2,000 if a New Hampshire Scholar (which reinforces the importance of enrolling in a more rigorous high school curriculum). Future student debt is therefore reduced by \$4,000 to \$8,000 (for 4-year college graduates). Moreover, by enrolling in a NH institution a student is much more likely to have internship or work-based experience with a NH firm, and continue employment with that firm after graduation (or secure a reference to another NH firm).

The initial implementation approach of the GSP "committed" funds for future enrollment of students receiving scholarships, and restricted the number of students able to receive scholarships per institution. The restriction has been removed and full access is being phased-in with each new class. The number of GSP recipients will increase from less than 1,000 to an estimated 5,000 students over the next several years. The General Fund has been the sole source of support for the GSP, and non-lapsing appropriations from the present and prior biennium provide sufficient support for a transition to reliance on a portion of the 529 fee revenue and elimination of any need for future General Fund subsidy.

The UNIQUE Annual Award (AA) program supports both recent high school graduates and adult learners returning to school, whether enrolled full or part-time. Under the current criteria for Annual Awards, individuals with an Expected Family Contribution of up to \$1,000 would receive \$1,000 if full-time students and \$500 if part-time. According to workforce studies conducted for 65x25, the greatest opportunity to increase the number of college-educated workers is to provide support for the 140,000 adults in NH with some college credits but no degree. The Annual Award program will enable these individuals to enroll in more courses and complete degree or high value credential programs sooner with less debt.

The UNIQUE Endowment program has enabled campuses to establish restricted endowments where every dollar distributed must go to Pell-eligible residents (no administrative costs permitted), with a minimum grant of \$1,000 per student grant recipient. The program enables campus financial aid officers to package this grant with other aid to maximize the impact on students, and has led to efforts such as the expansion of the USNH Granite Guarantee. Future contributions to endowments would be reduced to 30% of annual 529 fees under an agreement reached during the March 8th Commission meeting, and therefore still enable the program to keep pace with the rising cost of education plus possibly increase the number of grants.

Forecasts for 529 assessment revenue project \$18+ million annually. Assuming 30% is directed to the Endowment Program and after making an allowance for the required Audit and other small administrative costs, more than \$12 million will be available for support of student grants (AA and GSP). Under present criteria, the Annual Award program costs \$3-4 million per year, and using updated projections, it is expected the Commission will approve an increase to the individual grant amount, possibly even doubling the award. The GSP, as described above, is projected to cost more than \$6 million per year when fully implemented. The carryforward of unexpended General Funds appropriated for the GSP plus the Trust Fund balance provide the necessary contingency if costs are underestimated (which would be a wonderful because that means a higher proportion of residents are deciding to enroll in New Hampshire colleges and universities). The number of grants awarded from the three programs last year was 7,200 and is estimated to be 8,000 this year. Under the above plan, that number will grow to roughly 13,000 or more despite demographic headwinds. The three programs are fully sustainable without any General Fund support and the original commitment to New Hampshire families for the use of 529 fees would be honored and preserved.

If -- as originally proposed in HB 2 -- nearly \$11 million in annual 529 assessment revenue is diverted to a new debt reduction program, then the number of grant recipients will decline substantially. Moreover, there are much more effective and efficient means to accomplish the same ends. First, under the CARES Act for-profit companies are for the first time able to deduct as a business expense a payment of up to \$5,250 annually per employee for student debt reduction. The CRRSA Act approved by Congress in December extended this program for five years, and given the strong bipartisan support, is highly likely to continue well beyond that period. There is no need to create a forgivable loan bureaucracy in New Hampshire to manage a program that is far less attractive than the new federal program.

To briefly describe forgivable loan programs, they substitute a new loan for an existing loan and then the new loan is "forgiven" after the individual meets all the stipulated requirements, normally working for a particular company or in a specific profession for a number of years (typically a minimum of five years). The individual's aggregate debt is not reduced until completion of the program. The federal government's record on approving "forgiveness" is abysmal (less than 1% of applicants) and has created understandable skepticism, especially among young professionals. Because debt is not reduced until fulfillment of employment minimums, these programs do not encourage earlier "household formation" -- actions that increase the commitment to the local community and likelihood to remain in NH. Finally, mechanisms need to be established for issuing the new loans, monitoring

compliance with the loan terms, approving any exceptions, and seeking repayment if terms are not met – creating a long administrative “tail.”

Second, if there is interest in providing additional support for for-profit industries and other professions, then a Business Profit and/or Business Enterprise Tax credit would provide an effective and efficient incentive for debt reduction payments made above the federal \$5,250 level. For example, if an employer wanted to attract young professionals to the business, they could offer an annual payment of \$10,000 to reduce student debt, with a BPT/BET tax credit of \$4,750 (\$10,000 less the federal deduction of \$5,250). This payment/credit rewards businesses engaged in a true partnership with the state, and requires some "skin in the game" on their part (albeit with significant tax benefits). This would be a true win-win-win for young employees, businesses, and the state.

Finally, the Governor’s proposed budget appropriated \$3 million annually for the GSP during FY2022-23. Although the House removed this funding, conceptually those General Fund dollars can now be “repurposed” to support reduction of student debt for employees in not-for-profit organizations such as health centers. There is an existing State Loan Repayment Program administered by NH HHS for this purpose, and again, therefore no need to establish a new entity to manage the program. Further, under the current understanding of the American Rescue Plan provisions, the state has flexibility to utilize this federal support for efforts such as the State Loan Repayment Program.

Please fulfill and reiterate the statutory commitment made to New Hampshire families by allowing the 529 Commission to complete its work in creating sustainable and enhanced scholarship opportunities for our residents that will also substantially reduce student debt and grow the educated workforce crucial to long term economic vitality. Again, no future General Fund support will be required for the Commission to accomplish this goal.

Thank you. I am glad to answer any questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me: edmackay19@gmail.com.

Debra Martone

From: John Gedraitis <johnwg34@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:34 AM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Cc: NH.SBDC@unh.edu
Subject: NHSBDC

Dear Committee,

I am writing in support of restoring funding to the NH SBDC to a minimum of \$440,000 per fiscal year 2022 and 2023. As I understand it, the SBDC's budget is a line item in the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' budget. It has been proposed that it be reduced to \$50,000 in 2022 and then to \$0 in 2023. If this were to happen it would reduce, then eliminate matching funds from the SBA. At that point, the NHSBDC would be unable to continue providing the expert assistance to NH business people they have come to rely upon.

About a year and a half ago I began the process of purchasing a mid-sized NH business. Though I had worked for the business for nearly 15 years and knew it inside and out, I had no experience with the acquisition process and its many moving parts. It was suggested to me that I contact the SBDC for guidance. I called and got an appointment with Amy in short order. Her expert counsel and support have helped me navigate this process and has given me the confidence I needed to succeed. Having these services available to me at no cost was crucial, especially early in my exploration of the transaction's feasibility. My family and I are excited as we look forward to closing the deal in the coming weeks thanks, in large part to the help from the folks at NHSBDC.

Given my direct experience with NHSBDC I believe strongly that it would be a very real and tangible loss to our state if this valuable resource were to no longer exist. Thank you for your consideration.

John Gedraitis

Owner of Broadmarsh Growers LLC

603-969-4221

Debra Martone

From: Cecil Abels III <cecil@mrsippybbq.com>
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 10:57 AM
To: ~House Finance Division I; Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: Support for NH SBDC

Dear NH Legislators,

I am writing to ask that you support the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The SBDC has helped me over the past 2 years as transition from employee to employer and open my own BBQ restaurant and catering business. There is a void for these services and demand is high, and we showcase the best of New Hampshire. While I operate part-time and try to purchase my own location (in the middle of a pandemic), my advisors Warren and Amy have constantly helped fill the gaps in my expertise. They have reviewed financials and business plans, offered professional introductions, and kept the words of encouragement going to keep building my business. This business is projected to employ 8-10 New Hampshire citizens, feed and entertain hundreds of thousands, source from local farms and agribusinesses, and be an ambassador for our beautiful home state.

I am thankful the SBDC was here to assist myself and the many other New Hampshire small businesses and entrepreneurs. In 2019 alone the SBDC advised 932 clients, 77 new businesses were formed as a result, 3,366 new jobs created, \$16.5m sales increase with a total \$147m total annual impact on the NH economy. In my field, that is certainly worth \$440,000 investment.

The SBDC is a line item within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budget. I would respectfully ask that the SBDC's funding is restored to at least \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. It is a sound investment for New Hampshire

Sincerely,

--

Cecil Abels
cecil@mrsippybbq.com
207.200.4060
www.mrsippybbq.com

Debra Martone

From: Allison G Grappone <allison.grappone@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:17 AM
To: ~House Finance Division I; Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: Allison Grappone: Restore Funding to SBDC

Dear House Finance Division and Senate Finance Committee,

I am strongly opposed to defunding NH's SBDC and I am shocked to see the defunding in the current proposed budget. I know the compelling value-add statistics and ROI of their services and I have benefited first hand from their expertise and attention.

When I was launching my startup in 2011 I was introduced to their work. It was the best business decision I made to seek SBDC counsel. They helped me from the inception of the businesses until I sold my business 5 years later. Having spent the majority of my startup hours at an entrepreneurial workspace, I know SBDC supported a majority of the businesses who shared desk space with me.

I also know they played a critical role in supporting our small businesses during the pandemic. They helped keep businesses open, they saved jobs, they drove sales and brought in funding to save businesses.

This is a mistake for the people of New Hampshire. The State is presenting itself as unfriendly and unwelcoming to entrepreneurs.

Allison Grappone

Allison Grappone
[linkedin.com/in/allisongrappone](https://www.linkedin.com/in/allisongrappone)

Debra Martone

From: Michelle Jereczek <Michelle.Jereczek@hrintelligentdesign.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:18 AM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Cc: NH Small Business Development Center
Subject: Save NH SBDC - Budget Review

Good morning NH Honorable Representatives,

I am writing in request in support of funding for the NH Small Business Development Center with a minimum of \$440,000 for the upcoming 2022 and 2023 years. The SBDC has been a vital resource for me, as I started my business back in 2014. Their advisors' counsel has been extremely valuable to me and many small, aspiring business owners.

Please help to support this vital service in NH. Thank you.

Michelle Jereczek, SHRM-SCP

CEO / Managing Partner & Chief HR Consultant

HR Intelligent Design, LLC

781-953-0299



<https://hrintelligentdesign.com>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/msjereczek>

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Debra Martone

From: Matt Pierson <mattpierson@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 5:58 PM
To: John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Debra Martone; Gary Daniels; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey
Subject: The SBDC builds companies and our NH tax base, cutting funding will hurt small business and reduce NH state revenue

Dear Honorable Members,

I've spent my career building businesses in New Hampshire, over 35 years now. The companies I've funded or founded have created hundreds of good paying jobs. I've been honored as the Entrepreneur of the Year by both the NH High Tech Council and the University of New Hampshire as its Holloway Prize winner.

Throughout my career, the NHSBDC has been a resource when I've need assistance solving a business problem. I would not be where I am personally without having had access to resources like the NHSBDC. The State of New Hampshire would have had significantly less tax income if I hadn't successfully launched DTC Communications (acquired by Cobham) and JitterJam (acquired by Meltwater). Both highly successful businesses paid a variety of NH state taxes directly, and the windfall made by my partners and I have generated significant Dividend and Income tax revenue as well. To eliminate funding for the NHSBDC will erode the New Hampshire Advantage. Some companies that may have been successful will not have access to a critical resource and will fail.

Please support the NHSBDC; it represents an excellent Return On Investment for NH taxpayers.

Respectfully,

Matt Pierson
10 Cabot Lane
Bedford, NH 03110

Debra Martone

From: Jeromy Grimmatt <jeromy@rogue.space>
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 1:23 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; ~House Finance Division I
Cc: Rita Toth; Dunn, Heidi; SBDC Employees
Subject: NH SBDC Funding

Importance: High

Esteemed New Hampshire Senate & Finance Committee Members,

My name is Jeromy Grimmatt and I am the CEO of Rogue Space Systems Corporation in Laconia, NH. I am writing to all of you out of grave concern over the looming removal of funding from the NH SBDC in 2022 and 2023. I am not going to try and explain to you NH SBDC's role, you all already knows that, and you know what they do. What I will attempt to do is help you understand the massive and very real impact they have on business here in NH, specifically as it relates to Rogue.

In November of 2018, Rogue was an idea and nothing more. One of NH SBDC's advisors came to our office to meet with us, and in that moment, they helped bring our business to reality. With Rita Toth's (our advisor with a Harvard MBA and vast, successful entrepreneurial expertise) guidance, we were able to formulate our strategy, build a business plan, create and refine our pitch deck, develop our corporate structure and organization, conduct market planning and receive just simple knowledge and expertise that most startups DO NOT HAVE ACCESS to, much less at no cost to our fledgling company. Without the NH SBDC, we would not be drafting proposals for the United States Space Force today, or receiving \$1.1M in research support from the Air Force Research Lab today, or conducting mission design and planning orbital operations with NASA to conduct research for them today, nor would Rogue be slated to go to space in Summer 2022 with Rogue's first spacecraft that is being designed and engineered HERE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE...TODAY! Without the NH SBDC we would not have hired our first two engineers, one of which that has now relocated to Laconia with her husband who is a Network Engineer with Amazon. Nor would our PhD. Plasma Engineer along with his PhD. Physicist wife (currently at Princeton) be planning their move to New Hampshire. Nor would we have the nearly 30+ employee hiring plan, all of whom are going to be here in New Hampshire or relocated to New Hampshire without the NH SBDC's support and guidance. Rogue is projecting a \$250M+ revenue model by 2025, which would have been impossible without the support and guidance of the NH SBDC. When looking at just our particular case study, I have to believe \$440k is well worth trade off...

The NH SBDC is not some exercise in vanity or luxury, but they are an instrumental and vital part of NH's business incubation and lifecycle. They are essential in helping everyone with a business idea and the motivation to work toward greater opportunity in this state. The NH SBDC is not a line item/expense that should be viewed as just that, some "expense" that cannot be afforded, but an investment that helps develop the small business entrepreneurship in the State of New Hampshire that has a direct and inextricable link to the state's tax base and it's GDP. They provide education and guidance to help first time business owners and seasoned entrepreneurs with information, referrals and direction to prevent them from making mistakes. They help us develop strategies and plans on how to bring highly skilled and an innovative workforce to this great state, and discover resources already in it!

They say that it takes a village to raise a child. The same could be said about a new small business; it cannot be done alone, it takes a community to support that business both in terms of revenue, but also a helping hand when it needs it. The NH SBDC is part of that network and ecosystem here in our state that cultivates these small businesses. Our state is not in a position to squander opportunity or handicap our future. We need investment in all areas that help us

drive revenue, people and jobs so that we can come out of this pandemic with strength beyond compare. Do not take away funding from an organization whose sole purpose is to build those areas up.

Please restore the funding and allow the NH SBDC, along with our, and other small businesses here in NH build upon this economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this email or have any way I can be of service to you all or our State, please contact me any time.

Respectfully,
j

Jeromy Grimmatt



SPACE SYSTEMS CORPORATION

Direct: 603.766.3625

Cell: 318.229.5659

jeromy@rogue.space

<https://rogue.space>

[Book a time with me!](#)

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Debra Martone

From: Willis Whalen <WillisRWhalen@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 1:29 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Cc: O'Brien, Andrea
Subject: NH SBDC

RE: NH Small Business Development Center

Dear Senate Budget Committee,

I have noticed with both disdain and bewilderment the new state budget is all but eliminating the funding for the NH SBDC. This is awful.

Governor Sununu has said many times that small business is the strength of New Hampshire's economy. He is not mistaken in this, it is well known. What he and the current State House people are mistaken in is this idea that funding NH small business technical assistance is not important. This is very far from the truth and a serious oversight. If NH's small businesses are to continue and grow, funding to their support network, like SBDC must be made available. Small startup companies, and existing companies have found NHSBDC a great resource in everything from how to get funding, compliance issues, management issues, and items like tax and payroll help. I cannot stress enough the importance of this help.

I know firsthand the importance of this help, as I have navigated through the maze of compliance items with their help with the small company I worked for for over 28 years. The extent of the SBDC's reach was phenomenal, we had some engineering concerns about a lucrative product that they provided resources for, resources I would never have been able to access. These were not monetary resources, but serious technical ones. This put us on the cutting edge of what was an up and coming trend.

I started an LLC using the advice and guidance of SBDC. They have helped me navigate business issues and even helped me network with prospective clients, and as a result, my LLC grew. I know many other small businesses and LLCs who have benefited from SBDC.

This is not the time, given the current conditions of the economy and pandemic, to be tossing out funding for SBDC. To maintain a healthy NH economy small businesses need to flourish. A healthy small business environment promotes a healthy business infrastructure that large corporations will see as a benefit to setting up or expanding in NH.

Please, you must reconsider these actions, and continue to restore proper funding of NHBDC. Doing anything less would be disastrous for the economy and forward movement of this great state.

Willis Whalen
Temple, NH

willisrwhalen@hotmail.com



New Hampshire

45 S. Main Street, Suite 202 | Concord, NH 3301
1-866-542-8168 | Fax: 603-224-6212 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/nh | nh@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpnh
facebook.com/AARPNH

Testimony
Hearing HB 1 and 2
May 4, 2021
Senate Finance Committee

Chairman Daniels and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am Douglas McNutt the Associate State Director for Advocacy at AARP New Hampshire. We represent more than 215,000 Granite Staters (our members) over 50 years old. Although our members don't agree on everything, one thing there is almost universal agreement among them is that they want to stay at home as they age. In a recent informal poll almost 90 % said it was a top or high priority to see more and better services to keep people at home.

This past year this pandemic has shown how important it is to be able to keep people safe and at home. We also know that care through the State's Choices for Independence Program -- which is for people who are clinically eligible to be in nursing homes -- costs about one third the cost of keeping someone in a nursing homes.¹ It is cheaper to keep people at home and home is where they want to be. The state's budget and this process should align with that fiscal reality and their preferences.

New Hampshire, in the Medicaid budget, continues to spend significantly more money on institutional care versus in home care. The current budget proposal has some increases for three Choices for Independence Services (CFI), but it doesn't increase others. And these are equally important. Even for the services receiving increases, the increases do not make payments for these services comparable for similar services in the same area so further adjustments are needed. For example, similar services provided under the non-Medicaid programs are paid significantly more for clients that aren't as sick as people in the CFI program. Furthermore since some of these services are provided by the same agency / service provider, it is difficult for these agencies to provide services under CFI when it is reimbursed less and serves clients with greater need

¹ A simple sheet explaining the CFI Program is attached as Exhibit A.

This inconsistency creates a disincentive to provide CFI services and makes it more difficult to provide services to all of those who need them. We can do better and better starts with budgeting. For those who are receiving services, they are often receiving less than have been awarded because there simply aren't providers who have staff to provide these services

Not only are CFI services not funded as well as similar aging services, but they are also not comparable to those in other fields such as behavioral health and developmental disabilities. This makes it even more difficult to find the workforce necessary to provide aging services. This is not acceptable. And this comes at a time when New Hampshire has (1) an aging population (2) who want to remain at home, and; (3) rightly eager to have the benefit of less expensive and more desirable home care services so that the state doesn't need to build additional facilities. We believe that there should be a committee to study the rates for comparable services in all these systems; including CFI, to create parity for the rates paid to similar services.

The Department indicated to the committee that it wanted to suspend Presumptive Eligibility for Long Term Services and Supports (RSA 151-E:18) <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XI/151-E/151-E-18.htm>, because it does not have funding for it. The Department seemed to indicate that this was for nursing homes services, but it actually was passed to shorten the time frame to make people eligible for home based services. That is because home services are not eligible for retroactive payments as nursing homes are. Presumptive Eligibility was originally passed to address that problem. Home care providers can't afford to provide services to clients who are not eligible, because they cannot get the same retroactive payment that a nursing home can. Presumptive Eligibility can be an effective tool in avoiding unnecessary institutionalization of people who need long term care services. This could be something that could be funded by the temporary increased payments by the federal government for home and community based services. This would allow the Department to determine what the actual cost of this program would be versus the benefit it provides.

The budget passed by the House does provide some increases for some services to keep people at home. But it doesn't go far enough. The three services raised under the CFI program are still not adequate to provide for those services. Also other services such as Adult Medical Day Care (which, if done well and broadly, could leverage private pay dollars) have not received an increase, even when that service is currently reimbursed at about half of the actual cost (\$54/day actual cost is \$112/day). As a result many adult day cares have closed in the last 5-10 years. This is bad news for New Hampshire's 177,000 unpaid family caregivers, many of whom could, would, and did use such services for needed respite without burdening state budgets. Again, this doesn't only impact Medicaid recipients, but also means these services aren't there for private payers either. This takes away an important service from families who are doing the right thing by keeping their loved ones at home instead of placing them in a nursing home.

The increases in the budget for certain CFI services such as Personal Care Services, Case Management and Homemaker Services are welcome. Apparently this follows

recommendations of the Guidehouse report, which has just been published. We want to know, and you (respectfully) need to know why do these receive services receive increases but not others. What is the rationale for these increases and why does the Guidehouse report choose only these three services.

We appreciate that the House budget does make some attempt to support some services within the CFI program, but it does not address the needs of the program as a whole. And it does not address the need to provide services in the home and community for Elders and adults with physical disabilities.

We would be happy to work with the Committee to provide further information about this important program to help you make your decisions.

Thank you

Douglas McNutt
AARP New Hampshire
dmcnutt@aarp.org
603-858-4640

**CHOICES FOR
INDEPENDENCE
PROGRAM (CFI)**

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Care
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Choices For Independence Program (CFI)

What Is The Choices For Independence Program?



The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is committed to providing home and community based services as an alternative to nursing facility placement. The Choices for Independence (CFI) Program is a Medicaid-funded program that provides a wide range of service choices that enable eligible adults to stay in their own homes and communities. Adults participating in the CFI Program must be age 18 or older and meet certain financial and clinical eligibility requirements.

Certain steps must be completed before your services can start. You must:

- Undergo a determination of financial eligibility
- Undergo a determination of clinical eligibility
- Choose a Case Manager to help manage your services



If you would like, you can meet with a ServiceLink Resource Center Options Counselor to assist with this process.

DHHS partners with the ServiceLink Resource Center Network to help consumers apply for the CFI Program.



ServiceLink

Toll Free 1-866-634-9412

(NH Relay) 7-1-1

Language interpreters are available

Meeting With The Options Counselor

You can learn more about the eligibility requirements and process of applying for the Choices for Independence Program by contacting an Options Counselor at your local ServiceLink office. The initial conversation about your specific needs can happen by phone or in person at a ServiceLink location or community setting. A list of ServiceLink offices is located at the end of this booklet or by clicking here: [ServiceLink Offices](#)



The Options Counselor will explain the application requirements and next steps for financial and clinical eligibility requirements for the CFI Program and provide you with the “Exploring Choices for Independence” brochure. The brochure will outline the services that may be available to you through the program if you are eligible.

The Options Counselor will also complete a basic screening for Medicaid financial eligibility. If it appears that you may qualify, the Options Counselor will discuss this option with you and provide the Medicaid application, other necessary documents, and verification information. It is important to begin the process of gathering information for your application. The Options Counselor is available to answer questions and assist you throughout the application process.

Presumptive Eligibility

In some cases where individuals are at risk, all information has been submitted and financial eligibility seems likely, a presumptive eligibility process may be initiated. For more information about this process contact DHHS or a ServiceLink Office.

Financial Eligibility For the Choices For Independence Program

To be determined financially eligible to participate in the CFI program you will need to complete the Medicaid application. Once you have done this and have completed the necessary verification information, return the application to the ServiceLink Options Counselor or local District Office. The counselor will schedule an appointment for you to meet with a representative from the Division of Client Services (DCS) under DHHS. DCS administers eligibility for the Medicaid program in New Hampshire.



You may choose to have your appointment scheduled at a ServiceLink office or at a DHHS District Office. At either location your appointment will be with a DCS representative.

After your meeting with the DCS representative, you may be required to provide additional information to complete your Medicaid application. The Options Counselor from ServiceLink may be able to provide you with reminders, but it is your responsibility to return all necessary documents to DCS within 10 days.

The financial eligibility determination process can take 45 days or longer.

**Don't forget to complete and promptly return all documents to your ServiceLink Options Counselor or DCS Representative.
Remember: It's always your choice whether or not to continue with the application process.**

Are Additional Steps Required For the Medicaid Application?

If you are age 65 years or older, there are no additional steps to your application to the Medicaid Program.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 64 years, there are additional steps. Medicaid eligibility for individuals who are between the ages of 18 and 64 years is determined under:

- Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD)
- Aid to the Needy Blind (ANB)

For APTD and ANB

If you haven't applied for Social Security Disability benefits, this will be required, and you will need to certify to DCS that you have done so. Your ServiceLink Options Counselor can help you find the application for Social Security Disability benefits. Medical information will be required for review by the Disability Determination Unit (DDU) to verify your disability. The DDU will notify you of the approval to continue processing your application for Medicaid eligibility.



Clinical Eligibility For The Choices For Independence Program

To be determined clinically eligible to participate in the CFI program, you will need to undergo a medical assessment. The DHHS Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services (BEAS) will determine if your condition meets the clinical requirements for the nursing facility level of care as described in the rule adopted by BEAS (He-E 801). The assessment will determine how you function when it comes to performing activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, and dressing.



An appointment will be made for you with a community nurse who may come to your home for an assessment. The nurse will explain in more detail about the CFI Program and ask questions about your medical condition and activities of daily living. Please have your medications available to discuss with the nurse. The interview does not include a physical exam of any kind. The interview time ranges from one (1) to two (2) hours.

If you have not been contacted within 10 business days of your Medicaid interview date about an appointment with a community nurse, call ServiceLink at 1-866-634-9412 to get an update on the status of your application.

How Will I Find Out About the Decision?

You will receive a letter (“Notice of Decision”) from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) indicating whether or not you are financially and clinically eligible for the Choices for Independence Program.

Your Right to Appeal



If you are not found eligible for Choices for Independence, you have the right to appeal this decision. The appeals process will be explained in the letter. You can also ask your Options Counselor at ServiceLink about other Medicaid options, as well as available community service options.

It is important to remember there are time limits for filing an appeal. Generally, you must file an appeal within 30 days after the date on the Notice of Decision for the CFI Program. Carefully read your Notice of Decision and the Notice of Rights and Responsibilities to determine how long you have to file an appeal. You can withdraw your appeal at any time.

Case Manager and Care Plan for Services

If you are found eligible for the Choices for Independence Program, you will be asked to select a CFI Case Manager who will work with you to develop a service plan and will assist you to arrange for providers of services. Your Case Manager will continue assisting you once you begin receiving services through the CFI Program. If you do not have a CFI Case Manager preference, BEAS will identify a Case Manager to begin the process of developing a service plan.

Once a Case Manager has been assigned, you will receive a letter from DHHS confirming the name of your Case Manager, how to contact him or her, and how/when your Case Manager will meet you and create a care plan with you. The Case Manager's role is in planning your services. This is an opportunity to discuss with your Case Manager what is important to you.

After you and your Case Manager develop the care plan, the Case Manager will inquire about your choices for providers, and will then coordinate with you to organize the services to be delivered as part of your service plan. The ServiceLink Options Counselor remains available to you as a community resource.

IMPORTANT!

- Send in all required documents on time.
- You must be financially and clinically eligible to receive services through the **Choices for Independence Program**.
- You always have the right to appeal a denial of eligibility (financial and/or clinical).
- You have the ability to choose your Case Manager.
- Regardless of your Medicaid status, the Options Counselor at ServiceLink is available to assist you.



ServiceLink

Toll Free 1-866-634-9412

(NH Relay) 7-1-1

Language interpreters, hearing and vision access available

NH Department of Health and Human Services - District Offices

Berlin District Office

650 Main Street, Suite 200
Berlin, NH 03570
(603) 752-7800; (800) 972-6111
TDD Access Relay: (800) 735-2964
Fax: (603) 752-2230

Claremont District Office

17 Water Street, Suite 301
Claremont, NH 03743
(603) 542-9544; (800) 982-1001
TDD Access Relay: (800) 735-2964
Fax: (603) 542-2367

Concord District Office

40 Terrill Park Drive
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-6200; (800) 322-9191
TDD Access Relay: (800) 735-2964
Fax: (603) 271-6451

Conway District Office

73 Hobbs Street
Conway, NH 03818
(603) 447-3841; (800) 552-4628
TDD Access Relay: (800) 735-2964
Fax: (603) 447-1988

Keene District Office

111 Key Road
Keene, NH 03431
(603) 357-3510; (800) 624-9700
TDD Access Relay: (800) 735-2964
Fax: (603) 352-2598

Laconia District Office

65 Beacon Street West
Laconia, NH 03246
(603) 524-4485; (800) 322-2121
TDD Access Relay: (800) 735-2964
Fax: (603) 528-4105

Littleton District Office

80 North Littleton Road
Littleton, NH 03561
(603) 444-6786; (800) 552-8959
TDD Access Relay: (800) 735-2964
Fax: (603) 444-0348

Manchester District Office

195 McGregor Street, South Tower, Suite 110
Manchester, NH 03102
(603) 668-2330; (800) 852-7493
TDD Access Relay: (800) 735-2964
Fax: (603) 668-5442

Rochester District Office

150 Wakefield Street, Suite 22
Rochester, NH 03867
(603) 332-9120; (800) 862-5300
TDD Access Relay: (800) 735-2964
Fax: (603) 335-5993

Seacoast District Office

50 International Drive
Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603) 433-8300; (800) 821-0326
TDD Access Relay: (800) 735-2964
Fax: (603) 431-0731

Southern District Office

3 Pine Street Extension, Suite Q
Nashua, NH 03060
(603) 883-7726; (800) 852-0632
TDD Access Relay: (800) 735-2964
Fax: (603) 883-2064



ServiceLink Offices

Belknap and Carroll County

Laconia

67 Water St. Suite 105
Laconia, NH 03246
Local Line: 528-6945
Fax: 527-3790

Tamworth

448 White Mountain Highway
Tamworth, NH 03886
Local Line: 323-2043
Fax: 323-7508

Coos County Office

610 Sullivan Street, Suite 6
Berlin, NH 03570
(603) 752-6407
Fax: (603) 752-1824

Grafton County

Lebanon

10 Campbell St., P.O. Box 433,
Lebanon, NH 03766
Local Line: 448-1558
Fax: 448-6920

Littleton

Mt. Eustis Commons
262 Cottage St. Suite G-25
Littleton, NH 03561
Local Line: 444-4498
Fax: 444-0379

Plymouth

Plymouth Senior Center
(by appointment only)
8 Depot St., PO Box 478
Plymouth, NH 03264
Local Line: Call Littleton for appt.

Hillsborough County

Manchester

555 Auburn St.,
Manchester, NH 03103
Local Line: 644-2240
Fax: 644-2361

Nashua

Address:
70 Temple St.
Nashua, NH 03060
Local Line: 598-4709
Fax: 598-8491

Monadnock Region and Sullivan County

Keene

105 Castle St.,
Keene, NH 03431
Local Line: 357-1922
Fax: 352-8822

Sullivan

224 Elm Street
Claremont, NH 03743
Local Line: 542-5177
Fax: 542-2640

Rockingham County

Portsmouth/Seacoast Area

30 International Drive, Suite 202
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Local Line: 334-6594
Fax: 334-6596

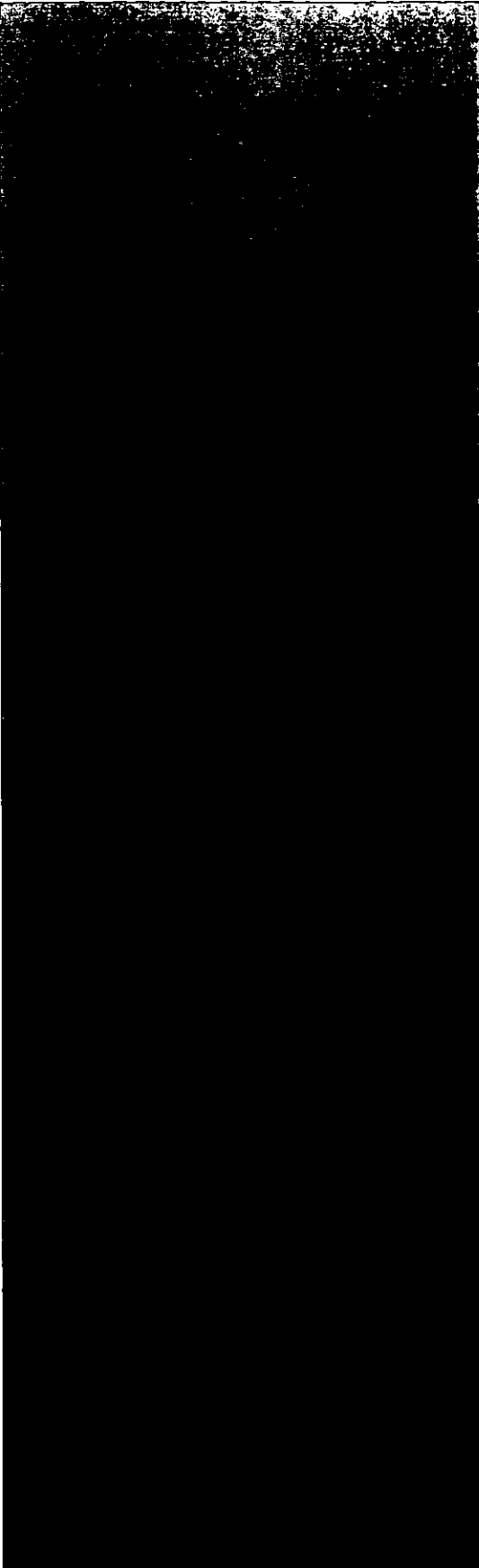
Salem Area

8 Commerce Drive, Unit 802
Atkinson, NH 03811
Local Line: 893-9769
Fax: 893-1339

Strafford County

25 Old Dover Rd.
Rochester, NH 03867
Local Line: 332-7398
Fax: 335-8010

All offices are open during normal business hours, Monday through Friday.



This publication is supported by the New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services and the
NHCarePath Initiative.

www.nhcarepath.org

Debra Martone

From: Winnisquam Watershed Network <winnisquamwatershednetwork@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:56 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: HB 2 & Ahern State Park

Senators,

I am writing you on behalf of the Winnisquam Watershed Network to urgently encourage you to amend HB2, Section 10:11, "Sale of the Lakes Region Facility" to specifically exclude Ahern State Park. While we are confident that it was not the intent of Section 10:11 to include Ahern State Park in the sale of the property, the ambiguity of the definition as it is currently written could be misconstrued to include the state park parcel since it is state owned and was at one time part of the State school property. This must not be allowed to happen.

Ahern State Park, with its 3,500 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Lake Winnisquam, is a valued public asset and one of the only locations on the lake where the public can access and enjoy all our lake has to offer. It is also key property in our watershed and it plays a vital role in protecting the water quality of the lake. It is essential that it be protected in perpetuity and not be included in the sale of the Lakes Region Facility.

We have been told by Representative UMBERGER that it is too late to make this change to the House version of the budget, and she suggested that we contact those of you on the Senate Finance Committee in order that you can make the change. We ask that you please address this issue immediately and amend HB 2 to unambiguously exclude the sale of Ahern State Park in the sale of the Laconia State School Property.

Thank you for your attention to this request, and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Lisa Eggleston
President
Cell: 508-259-1137



www.winnisquamwatershed.org





April 12, 2021

Transmitted via email

The Honorable Gary Daniels
Chairman – Senate Finance Committee
State House, Room 105
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
Email: Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us

Subject: HB 1-FN-A-L and HB 2-FN-A-L; transfer of Planning Division from OSI to BEA

Dear Senator:

The New Hampshire Planners Association (NHPA) represents approximately 200 land use planning professionals in our state, working at all levels of government and in the private sector. NHPA would like to take this opportunity to express support for the Planning Division, proposed to be placed under the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA), to receive additional funding for its programs, services and training functions. We believe a State Planning Department/Division has been and will continue to be critical not only to the future of the growth of the State but to the growth of each community at the municipal level. Through its various incarnations, the State Planning Office has provided assistance, support and resources to all communities across the state from the smallest town to the largest city.

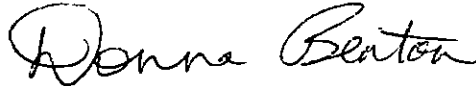
While we understand the current proposal is to move the Planning Division out of the Office of Strategic Initiatives and under the umbrella of the BEA and want to be sure this includes no reductions to the Planning Division budget and no reductions in staffing as a result of the move. In addition we would strongly advocate for additional support and funding that is required to succeed at the functions the Planning Division is statutorily obligated to do, as well as some functions that are simply sought after by municipalities and residents. This includes:

- 1) Training of planning professionals and volunteer land use board members
- 2) Clearinghouse for municipal ordinances and regulations
- 3) State data center
- 4) Technical Assistance for municipal ordinance creation – such as model ordinances (Agro Tourism, Tiny Homes, etc.)
- 5) Capital Planning for state infrastructure to support active and future growth areas.
- 6) State Development Plan

We believe planning functions at the state level are currently underfunded and that HB1 and HB2 need to account for those.

For these reasons we urge your committee to recommend that the Planning Division in BEA be appropriated additional funding to support the imperative planning tasks Office of Strategic Initiatives currently provides. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Benton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Donna Benton, President
NH Planners Association

Cc: By email to the Senate Finance Committee

Debra Martone

From: Ed and Louanne Stephenson <stephenson-ed-lou@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 7:52 AM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: HB 2

I am writing to you to express my concern over a bill attached to Governor Sununu's 2022-2023 Budget. This bill would give the Governor and Executive Council UNRESTRICTED ability to dispose of the old Laconia State School property.

As the bill is written, Ahern State Park, which is abutting the school property, could be included in the property being sold. This would add 1500 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Lake Winnisquam in the sale. That addition would SWEETEN the deal for a developer, increase the purchase price and make the property much easier to sell!!!!

During the summer months, Ahern State Park gets a lot of use. The beach and shoreline are heavily utilized. Also, lots of boats anchor off the park for relaxation and playing in the water. This is prime real estate that should be left in its current natural state.

An amendment to the budget bill needs to be approved specifically prohibiting the sale of Ahern State Park.

Thank You.

Ed Stephenson, Belmont, 603-897-9707

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Debra Martone

From: Tim Dining <tdining@jewellinstruments.com>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:06 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: NHSBDC funding within the BEA Budget for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023

To Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I have worked in manufacturing in NH for over 30 years. Four of the companies that I have been affiliated with have been NHSBDC clients.

These businesses range from three years old to 70 to 130 years in business in NH with a cumulative employment of more than 175. Each time that we requested assistance from the NHSBDC we received rapid and extremely useful responses from Counselors who clearly knew their subjects. Communication was clear and there was always follow-up from the Counselor to make sure that we had the information that we needed when a project was completed.

These businesses, like thousands of other NH clients of the NHSBDC, contribute to the NH tax base and are stronger and better able to adapt in challenging times and grow in better times in part because of the assistance that they receive from NHSBDC Counselors.

In the Governor's proposed Budget, SBDC funding from the State of NH through a line item in the BEA is reduced from \$440,000 to \$50,000 to \$0 in just three years' time. This will effectively eliminate the entire resource with no other such help available to small businesses in NH.

On behalf of small businesses (and taxpayers) in the State, I respectfully ask for the restoration of SBDC's funding to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 so that this fine organization can continue to support our economy.

Respectfully,



Tim Dining
VP/ General Manager
p 603.621.6023 c 603.892.8481
www.jewellinstruments.com

Debra Martone

From: Bridget Finnegan <bridgetfinnegan33@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: Support for SBDC's Budget

I am in full support of this measure:

SBDC is respectfully requesting that the State Legislature restore our funding in the state budget to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

The SBDC is a valuable resource to small business owners like myself.

Respectfully,

Bridget Finnegan

Bridget Finnegan

Dawdle Publishing, LLC
603-953-3446
bridgetfinnegan.com
bridgetfinnegan33@gmail.com



My latest book is now available!
<https://bit.ly/odettes-book>



Debra Martone

From: Melissa Christenson <melissa@creativetrainingresources.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 3:29 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: Restore SBDC's funding to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023

Hello,

I am writing to request that you restore SBDC's funding to a minimum of \$440,000 for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. If it hadn't been for the help and guidance I received from SBDC, my business wouldn't have survived the impact from Covid-19. Instead, because of their coaching, guidance, and programs, my business has not only come back, but it is thriving. This is allowing me to hire more subcontractors, which is good for me and good for the NH state economy.

When the pandemic first hit, I didn't have a clue how to shift over to the new reality. The SBDC provided me with information, support, and motivation to revamp my business offerings. I attended their webinars and took advantage of the counseling they provided. And, they have continued to support me to this day. This week, I reached out to my SBDC advisor on a question that I wasn't able to find the answer to despite calling multiple state offices. He answered my question promptly and saved me from wasting any more time and energy.

Small businesses in New Hampshire need a place to go when they can't find the answers on their own. They need someone to help them navigate the ever-changing and often complex information related to available loans and grants. They need a place where they can get the support and individual attention that they need. Please fund this valuable resource at a minimum of \$440,000 for FYs 2022 and 2023 so all New Hampshire small businesses have a chance to reap the benefits!

Thank you,
Melissa

Melissa Christenson | 603.440.9426

www.creativetrainingresources.com



Debra Martone

From: Ashish Patel <ashish@pilera.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: SBDC funding

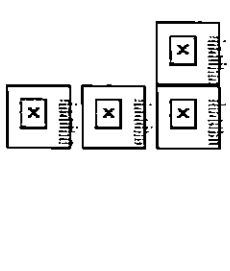
Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As a business owner in NH, I am contacting you about SBDC, which is a line item within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budget. I am kindly requesting the restoration of SBDC's funding to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

I have been using the SBDC services for over the past 10 years. Specifically, I have been working with Hollis McGuire. Hollis (and SBDC) has been a great help to me and my business. It has allowed me to grow my business from infancy to its current stage of 7 full-time employees. I think SBDC provides invaluable assistance to new and growing businesses. Over the years, I have relied on Hollis' assistance for key decisions related to my business related to marketing, finances, hiring, sales, etc. I would hate to see NH not making this available for future entrepreneurs. I think it makes good economic sense for the State of NH to continue offering this service at the previous budget level.

Any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

Thank you,
Ashish



Ashish Patel
CEO
Pilera Software
Phone: (603) 782-0148
Email: Ashish@Pilera.com



Popped by hand with love.®

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

February 27, 2021

Our small family business, Popzup Popcorn, in Dover, New Hampshire, is absolutely booming after starting it only a few years ago. Our sales have more than doubled every year for the past 3 years. We have 5 full time employees and project to hire 2 more before Q4. This year, our factory space in the 1 Washington Street Mill has grown from 1,440 square feet to 5,932 square feet. We have been working diligently to build a new 10,000 square foot manufacturing facility at Enterprise Park in Dover, to be completed within 1 ½-2 years.

None of the above would have happened without the NH SBDC. Our financial advisor, Warren Daniel, has become our trusted partner since the very beginning. He was instrumental in helping us secure over \$164,000 in SBA funding, and a line of credit from Bank Prov for \$100,000. This has enabled us to purchase our specific line of equipment to produce our products as well as our operating capital funding. He spent time coaching us to be prepared to a win \$10,000 local business competition He also works closely with us to put together our projections. Most recently helped us hire a part-time CFO, to guide us and offer wise financial decisions as we continue on our growth path. Warren also gives us marketing guidance, and has been our trusted advisor on all issues related to navigating our business during the pandemic.

New Hampshire will continue to gain a lot in job creation and tax revenue from the success of Popzup Popcorn. There are countless other business that share our same story. I am disheartened to learn that the Governor's new budget includes slashing funding to the NH SBDC. It's is unconscionable and irresponsible to disband this organization that has helped small business in NH to succeed for 36 years.

As small business owners, we can personally attest to the difficulty and inequality we face when trying to be the best at our trade and at growing our business at the same time. It's impossible to be great at every aspect of running a business and compete with larger businesses. The NH SBDC leveled the playing field for us that gave us the chance to compete, by providing the financial and marketing expertise that we could not afford.

We would not be here to tell you our amazing story of growth and of giving back to our New Hampshire community without the help and guidance of the NH SBDC. We know that SBDC is a line item within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budge. Please restore the SBDC's funding to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

Marty and Julie Lapham, Owners
Popzup Popcorn
1 Washington Street
Suite 2121 and 5110
Dover, NH 03820

Debra Martone

From: Patricia Dooley <patricia@studytours.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Cc: NH.SBDC@unh.edu; Lucy McVitty Weber (lwmcv@myfairpoint.net); Todd Nielsen
Subject: Support for Funding of SBDC's Budget Line Item

Dear Members of the NH Senate Finance Committee,

I write to express my strong support of the SBDC line item within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budget which I understand will be reviewed later this month. The SBDC has been extremely helpful to our small business in terms of support and advice during the last year of COVID-19 problems which, for the travel industry, was tumultuous to say the least. My husband/partner Todd Nielsen and I have been successfully running a niche, high-end adult educational travel business in Walpole for over 28 years. In fact, 2019 was our best year ever and we had hundreds of travelers signed up for trips departing from March 2020 through 2021; all tours scheduled through this summer (we might operate one tour to Iceland this June) were cancelled due to COVID-19. We subsequently refunded over \$945,000 in passenger tour payments during 2020 alone.

The SBDC provided excellent and useful advice via phone and Zoom on how to best handle our unique situation vis-à-vis our 2020 PPP loan (fully forgiven), NH Main Street Fund grants and a \$125,000 EIDL loan. In addition, my counselor reached out to senior SBA colleagues for answers to thorny questions involving the sticky intersection of PPP forgiveness rules such as FTEs and the NH Workshare Program. In short, their existence was and continues to be an important pillar of support to all NH businesses including our company and its 5 full-time NH employees who have been with us for over 20, 11, 7 and 2 years respectively.

I therefore respectfully request that you fully fund the SBDC's important mission of providing critical support to NH small businesses in your upcoming FY 2022 and FY 2023 budgets allocating around \$450 million per year.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Patricia M. Dooley
Co-Owner & Vice Pres.



Patricia M. Dooley

Dooley Nielsen associates, Inc.

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Monday - Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm ET

www.studytours.org

March 31, 2021

Senate Finance Committee
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of Senate Finance:

As a New Hampshire small business owner well connected to many others like me in the state, I am very troubled and dismayed by any possible budget cuts in line for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

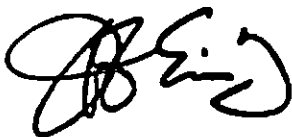
I have come to know the work of this valuable organization and feel strongly that the work they do is instrumental in helping small businesses thrive and remain the backbone of our state's economy. There are countless stories of businesses that have been not only assisted by the SBDC, but that actually remain in existence because of the valuable advice and guidance provided by the agency. Countless testimonials are readily available from businesses that are deeply indebted to the SBDC for information and advice they could not have received anywhere else. They will tell you that, in many cases, they simply would not have survived without this assistance.

When businesses across the country were closing their doors in 2020, the SBDC helped increase its clients' sales by almost \$10 million, saved and created over 1,300 jobs and raised \$45 million in new capital. Analyses show the agency makes an astounding \$166 million impact on the New Hampshire economy annually. This is a remarkable impact we simply cannot afford to sacrifice.

We realize there are obstacles to any budget. However, to risk damaging the health and welfare of the very businesses that are part of the solution makes no sense. If anything, we believe further support should be given to the agency—certainly, the last thing we want to do is to cut funding to what should be considered one of the important solutions in helping us emerge from our economic challenges.

I urge you to support the continued funding of the SBDC and, in doing so, invest in the growth of small businesses in New Hampshire and in the strength of our state's economy.

Best Regards,



Jeff Eisenberg
President and CEO
EVR Advertising

Debra Martone

From: Todd Boucher <tmb@ledesigngroup.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 6:21 AM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: Request - Restore SBDC Funding

Good Morning Senate Members:

My name is Todd Boucher. I am the owner and CEO of Leading Edge Design Group based in Enfield, NH. I was surprised and disappointed to recently learn of the Governor's proposed budget cut to the funding for the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center. I am writing to ask your Senate Committee to give SBDC a minimum of \$440,000 per year in FY22 and FY23 to maintain the funding level from FY20 and FY21.

We make the mistake too often today of defining 'entrepreneur' as singular. The reality is that entrepreneurship is not a heroic act by a single individual but the cumulative effort of founders, team members, family, advisors, community, and friends. Every business starts small. None have a chance of succeeding without a network of support and in New Hampshire, the Small Business Development Center is a critical component of that network. 99% of the businesses in New Hampshire are small businesses and of those 99%, very few are funded by outside investors who can provide mentorship and guidance to a business owner. This makes the availability of the free support and expertise offered by the SBDC so important to the health and vitality of our small-business driven economy in NH.

During the pandemic, I feel fortunate to have been able to leverage the expertise of the team at the SBDC for assistance in navigating the complexity of the PPP and MSRF grants. These grants helped our business endure the devastating impacts that COVID-19 has had on our business and we would not have been able to obtain them without the support of the SBDC.

If you believe in the importance of Small Businesses to our community, to our residents, and to the health of New Hampshire's economy, I ask that you please take action in restoring funding for the Small Business Development Center.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Todd Boucher

Todd Boucher, RCDD, DCEP
Principal & Founder
(603) 632.4507 x 300
tmb@ledesigngroup.com
www.ledesigngroup.com

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Debra Martone

From: Steve Collins <scollins@trefethencapital.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 7:54 AM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Cc: 'NH Small Business Development Center'; liz.gray@unh.edu; Daniel, Warren
Subject: NH SBDC funding for 2022 and 2023 We respectfully ask that you restore NHSBDC annual funding to the historical \$440, 000 level.

Good Morning Chairman Daniels and the Senate Budget Committee,
I am writing on behalf of the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center and my request that for the good of the New Hampshire Economy and its lifeline, New Hampshire small businesses, that you restore the NHSBDC budget back to it \$440,000 annual budget. It is critical for our State's economy that we have a strong support group for our small businesses that make up a significant portion of the NH economy. This is particularly true as small businesses are attempting to bounce back from the disastrous impact of COVID-19. The NHSBDC provides a wide net of direct resources and accesses to Federal resources that will allow NH small businesses to survive, restore their business impact, hire more workers in NH and revitalize the NH economy. Simply stated, **"If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime."** The NHSBDC teaches a person/small business to fish, it does not give them fish. That is the best long-term stimulus that the NH economy needs. There is no question that New Hampshire citizens get the biggest bang for their bucks from the NHSBDC.

Our firm has assisted over 200 regional businesses over the past 25 years, and we have experienced firsthand on behalf of our clients the incredibly good results that the NHSBDC does for the NH economy. We respectfully ask you to restore the NHSBDC funding to the historical \$440,000 annual level for 2022 and 2023. Now more than ever small businesses in NH need the support of NHSBDC.

Respectfully yours,

Steve Collins

Steven A. Collins
Senior Managing Principal
Trefethen Capital Markets LLC
99 Hanover St Suite 209
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603-828-9045
scollins@trefethencapital.com



Debra Martone

From: It's All Good In The Kitchen <itsallgoodinthekitchen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Debra Martone
Subject: NHSDBC Funding

Senator Martone,

I run a very small business in Salem NH. We are a bakery with revenue at 100K/year at this time. I've been working with a NHSDBC advisor for about 12 months now and have been so glad I have her available to our business. Without her capable and specific guidance, we're not sure we would still be in business. She has helped with all facets of our business which has kept us afloat during these tough times that Covid-19 has presented small business owners. I meet with my NHSDBC advisor typically monthly, to see how things are going and to map out the next steps to maintain our business. From finance, to marketing, to social media direction, she has given us the tools we need to stay profitable during difficult times.

I respectfully request you restore the NHSDBC funding in the BEA budget to the minimum of \$400,000. As a small business in NH, the assistance provided by this organization allows us to help the State of NH with business and meals taxes. If we had lost our business and other small businesses in NH the same, it would be a loss of revenue to the state. NHSDBC provides a valuable resource to small businesses in NH, by providing needed advice to keep businesses operating, which in turn helps our state in many ways.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jacky Levine and Ron Geoffroy
It's All Good In The Kitchen
184 N Broadway, Salem, NH 03079
603-458-7434
itsallgoodGF.com - Website
ItsallgoodinthekitchenLLC - Facebook
Itsallgoodinthekitchen2018 - Instagram



Debra Martone

From: Steve Cunningham <steve@NationalFlightSimulator.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 12:17 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Cc: NH.SBDC@unh.edu
Subject: [CAUTION: SUSPECT SENDER] Support for SBDC
Attachments: SBDC Trstimonial 2-2021.docx

Importance: High

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am contacting each of you as a small business located in Manchester, NH, that is most grateful for the crucial and vital services that the SBDC has provided to me and to National Flight Simulator, LLC over the past 18 months. Additionally, I wish to point out that National Flight Simulator, LLC was selected as the SBA's Veteran Owned Business of the Year for 2020.

Having those skilled professionals from the SBDC to help guide us through the pandemic and assist us with understanding "just how" to process the EDIL and PPP applications was lifesaving!. As a small business with very limited resources, even under the best of times, lacked the expertise, acumen & knowledge to navigate the EDIL/PPP processes and now burdened with the COVID 19 pandemic the SBDC services became even more vital to us.

With all that being said, I am encouraging the Senate Finance Committee to restore the SBDC funding for to the minimum of \$440,000 per fiscal year for 2022 and 2023. I am sure each of you are aware that the SBA matches "dollar for dollar", thus providing the SBDC with \$880,000 in funding. The SBDC is a critical service to New Hampshire's economy as they work assiduously to keep New Hampshire's small and "main street" business stable and fiscally prepared.

I have attached a testimonial that characterizes the SBDC value to New Hampshire's small business and its import to our State's economy. I trust the Senate Finance Committee will respond accordingly and I stand ready to provide the committee with any additional testimony in support of your decision to maintain the SBDC funding level for fiscal years 2022-2023.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and strong support of the SBDC in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Steve
Stephen Cunningham, President & CEO
National Flight Simulator, LLC
Trusted. Experienced. Affordable.
Tele.: 866.505.0077 - 603.880.0044
Mobile: 603.320.8723 Skype: stevecnh51
steve@nationalflightsimulator.com
www.nationalflightsimulator.com



To whom it may concern:

I wish to document the vital advisory services provided by the Small Business Development Center UNH, Manchester, NH. Their services are vital to the creation and sustainability for “small business” in New Hampshire.

The SBDC staff’s (Andrea O’Brien) business acumen, wealth of knowledge and ability to assist a small business like National Flight Simulator, LLC to navigate the world of finance, banking and proposals is impossible to place a monetary value upon. Their “partner” resources of SCORE, SBA, CRDC and others are without equal for a startup business, for a business expanding or, for a business creating a succession plan.

I can and will personally attest to the fact that without the SBDC’s advice, guidance, direction and resources it is unlikely that our business (National Flight Simulator, LLC) would have survived the rigors and challenges of the pandemic and subsequent collapsing economy.

The SBDC is essential for small & “main street” business that is the backbone of the New Hampshire economy.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Cunningham
Owner/Operator
National Flight Simulator, LLC

Debra Martone

From: Cathie M Clark Consulting <cathie@cathiemclark.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:59 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Cc: NH.SBDC@unh.edu; Glosner, Julie
Subject: Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Funding Continuation

To: Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of New Hampshire Senate Finance - State House

In 2019 I found myself unemployed and facing my 70th birthday. I had not intended to stop working; I still had many good years in me as well as marketable skills. The NHUES suggested their "Pathway to Work" program would be appropriate for me. I eagerly accepted the program and the availability of free SBDC counselling. The timing was not good, due to the onset of Covid-19.

Six months into the investment in my small consulting firm, I was sick with similar symptoms and restricted in every way possible from getting my business off the ground. Nevertheless, the SBDC continued its commitment to me in regularly scheduled Zoom-based sessions. My SBDC counsellor, Julie Glosner, has been of invaluable help; both as a sounding-board for my ideas and concerns, but also a valued source of information on laws and financing programs that might be appropriate and a source for legal contract documentation. At this point, I have not qualified for any of the funding, and I have invested over \$4,000 of my own money in this endeavor.

I now learn that NH state funding is being cut for SBDC. I had hoped SBDC to still be available to me when our business climate returns to normal. I think it more important than ever to have SBDC available to help the small businesses who have so few resources in this hostile business environment. I doubt that I am the only startup in NH in a fragile holding pattern waiting the go-ahead to actively pursue our potential with the SBDC guidance we have grown accustomed to.

I understand that SBDC is a line item within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budget; and respectfully request the restoration of SBDC's funding to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Cathie M. Clark Consulting, LLC — Website Updates and Document Rescue

Your Words are My Business

P.O. Box 990

Seabrook NH 03874

Office: 603-474-5184

Website: www.CathieMClark.com



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

Economic Development Department
(603) 610-7220

February 24, 2021

Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing in regards to the proposed budget cuts for NH Small Business Development Center (SBDC) within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' FY 22 and FY23 budget and to respectfully request restoration of the SBDC's line item funding to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

As proposed, the reduction of the SBDC's funding would significantly impair the ability of the organization to provide the irreplaceable services it provides to entrepreneurs and small business owners throughout the state. This action would also indirectly threaten the collaboration between the organization and New Hampshire municipalities' ability to retain and expand its small business sector.

In a state in which most businesses have fewer than 100 employees, and which is currently confronted with the need to assist these small businesses navigate federal relief programs and recover from the negative impact of the COVID 19 pandemic; it is incongruous to financially decimate an organization that plays such a key role in the ongoing recovery effort and in the launch of new enterprises that will eventually grow NH's economy and workforce.

Since 2010, the City of Portsmouth has had a successful partnership with the SBDC for free counseling for Portsmouth-based businesses at an office within City Hall. This in-kind office contribution is returned many times over in the assistance that the SBDC advisers provide to small business owners and entrepreneurs in Portsmouth. Access to these services is an important element of the City's focus on retaining and expanding local business, particularly our start-ups and small entrepreneurs.

The knowledge and quality of service of the seacoast SBDC advisors has been superior. It is the first agency to which I refer Portsmouth businesses in need of business counseling. This year in SBDC's Seacoast Region the agency supported 451 clients that self-reported annual sales totaling \$349,042,914. Further, it helped these clients:

- Start 9 businesses
- Create and/or save 533 jobs
- Raise \$14.66 million in new capital
- Increase their sales by \$4.91 million

Clearly, the SBDC seacoast services are in demand and it cannot be overstated that these individual services and online courses are critical to retaining small businesses and creating employment opportunities for existing and new Portsmouth residents.

1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801
Fax (603) 427-1593

I implore you to restore full funding for SBDC so that it can continue to serve the State, cities and towns and the small business community as it recovers from the pandemic and well into the future.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Carner
Economic Development Program Manager
City of Portsmouth, NH

CC: NH SBDC
Portsmouth Economic Development Commission
Karen Conard, Portsmouth City Manager
Portsmouth Legislative Delegation
Jane Ferrini, Assistant City Attorney

Debra Martone

From: Paula Gyurcsan <pgyurcsan@straffordcap.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 6:53 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Debra Martone; Erin Hennessey
Subject: senate budget testimony

Good Evening,

As the Home Visiting Manager for Community Action Partnership of Strafford County, I manage the Healthy Families America Program and Comprehensive Family Supports and Services Program.

In 2020, we received 143 referrals for our Healthy Families America Program, a three-year, evidence-based home visiting model designed to reduce child abuse and neglect for newborns. Our limited funding only allows us to serve 32 of these families at time, so we were forced to turn away too many who need our support. Some are able to alternatively enroll in our Comprehensive Family Supports and Services Program, a one-year program designed to prevent childhood neglect and abuse at all ages. We are able to serve nearly 45 families a month through this program.

A client of ours, Carrie, was able to enroll in and benefit from both programs. When we met Carrie, she was pregnant and had recently lost custody of her two other children due to substance use disorder and homelessness. We began working with her by supporting her in achieving her goals of having a healthy pregnancy and maintaining custody of her newborn through our Healthy Families America Program. Her enrollment in our Comprehensive Family Supports and Services Program prepared her to regain custody of her other children while working on her recovery. After more than a year of working alongside us, we are so proud that Carrie has regained custody of her children and maintains a healthy home for them with the support of our home visitors.

Our impact on families like Carrie's is great, but the need for our services in Strafford county is greater than what we have capacity for. I urge our lawmakers to provide home visiting programs with more funding in the impending budget. With it, we could develop a home visiting program that supports families long-term and serve all families that look to us for support.

Paula Gyurcsan, M.Ed.
Home Visiting Program Manager
Community Action Partnership of Strafford County
577 Central Ave., Suite 10
603-435-2500x8108
603-435-2444 (fax)



Visit us at www.straffordcap.org
Follow us on Twitter & Pinterest @StraffordCap
Like us on Facebook at Cap of Strafford County

Debra Martone

From: Gray, Elizabeth <Liz.Gray@unh.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 9:02 PM
To: Gary Daniels; Debra Martone
Subject: NH SBDC State Funding and Meeting Request...

Senator Daniels,

Hello. I hope you're well. I recently mailed a copy of NH SBDC's 2020 Impact Report to your office. I hope you received it and possibly had a chance to review it.

2020 tested us all in ways no one could have ever imagined, but I am incredibly proud of the work SBDC's team was able to accomplish. We helped over 7,000 businesses through direct advising and education last year. And in Senate District 11 alone, we supported 64 clients through direct advising and dozens through our educational programs. Those clients directly attributed SBDC's support in helping them create and save 10 jobs, raise \$652,680 in new capital, and increase their sales by \$20,000 during the pandemic. These 64 clients produced \$82.1 million in total annual sales. As challenging as 2020 was, there is so much good that we can all celebrate.

We've also enjoyed highlighting the innovations and successes our clients have achieved through our Covid Creativity stories. Here's one of your constituents, Coworking House in Milford. <https://www.nhsbdc.org/blog/2021/01/covid-creativity-coworking-house>

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the future of SBDC's funding. It's my understanding that Senate Finance will be hearing the Department of Business and Economic Affairs budget on Friday, April 23rd. This is where SBDC's small line item comes into play. We are in the House passed budget at \$225,000 per year. We hope to be have our budget fully restored to 440,000 per year, at a minimum.

Please let me know if you are able to connect in the next week or so. I will make myself available at any time that is convenient to you. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Liz

Liz Gray
State Director
NH Small Business Development Center
Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics
University of New Hampshire
10 Garrison Avenue
Durham, NH 03824
www.nhsbdc.org



NH SBDC is honored to be named the Business Assistance Organization of the Decade by Business NH Magazine. Visit SBDC's COVID-19 Assistance website for updates and SBDC's webinar schedule. <https://www.nhsbdc.org/covid-19-assistance>

Debra Martone

From: Cultured Tea Leaf <m@culturedtealeaf.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2021 12:02 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone

To: Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of New Hampshire Senate Finance - State House

I hope this email finds you well. I am Michael Guarino from Cultured Tea Leaf dba Dhammasoka LLC, based out of Hudson and Derry, NH. To view our product please see <https://us-east-2.protection.sophos.com?d=culturedtealeaf.com&u=d3d3LmN1bHR1cmVkdGVhbGVhZi5jb20=&i=NWRIZTQxMzMzYjRhNTgwZDk2OTJjZGRj&t=ZGQxV3JZdG00S0FXcHQrVHZjNVpUNnpXbkZySGNhaU9LRmc5VXVqM2lmVT0=&h=8ac88d1eb2d74bbc9d91b438a34c36ee> or search on Amazon.com for our name.

I am one of the many small business people in NH who have been positively impacted by SBDC. In June 2018, I was laid off from my job at Tesla. When I was in the unemployment workshop, I learned about the Pathway to Work program for people on unemployment to get the flexibility to start a new business with guidance from UE and SBDC.

My local business advisor from SBDC is Julie Glosner. I say "is" because even though the program is long over for my part, I am still in constant contact with her and she remains to this day an invaluable source of guidance. Just a couple of months ago, I needed legal advice and she connected me to an attorney who specializes in small and startup businesses. The attorney was a perfect fit and my problem was solved within an hour.

>From the very beginning of the Pathway to Work program, I met with Julie regularly in person and she was the one cheerleader who I could count on to see my vision, ask tough questions, and help me to get to the next step or stage in my business launch. She kept all my information completely confidential and I was able to trust her completely.

The various SBDC staff who work around the state are like a start-up braintrust for the Granite State. They advise entrepreneurs at the micro level and help us to avoid costly mistakes when we are overwhelmed. They connect us to vendors, industry experts, other entrepreneurs, and many others. Losing them would be a big blow to our growing startup culture here in the state. Especially since SBDC is funded with matching federal dollars, I think it's an excellent return on investment for the state.

I implore you to keep NH's startup braintrust alive through the SBDC and return it back to the budget.

Kind regards,

Michael Guarino
Cultured Tea Leaf
w<https://us-east-2.protection.sophos.com?d=culturedtealeaf.com&u=d3d3LmN1bHR1cmVkdGVhbGVhZi5jb20=&i=NWRIZTQxMzMzYjRhNTgwZDk2OTJjZGRj&t=ZGQxV3JZdG00S0FXcHQrVHZjNVpUNnpXbkZySGNhaU9LRmc5VXVqM2lmVT0=&h=8ac88d1eb2d74bbc9d91b438a34c36ee>
603-219-7696

Debra Martone

From: Trudy Mott-Smith <wmottsm@worldpath.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2021 12:46 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: "divisive concepts" language in the budget

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Please remove the language about "divisive concepts" from the budget.

First, it is not the kind of provision which belongs in a budget.

In addition, the purpose of the provision is wrong-headed. The sponsors believe it would prevent discrimination and discriminatory language. it would not!

What it would do is prevent discussion of those important topics in schools, as part of the training recommended by the LEACT Commission and in other settings where the discussion is important.

Sincerely,

Wiltrud R. Mott-Smith
91 Kenney Road
Loudon, NH 03307
603-267-7566

Debra Martone

From: Mary Davies <marbob75@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 12:34 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: HB544 included in budget bill

I write in strong objection to HB544, the teaching of divisive concepts, and its inclusion in the state budget bill. Policy such as this has no place in a budget bill. HB544 has no place in NH. You cannot eliminate racism or any other ism by simply refusing to learn about them.

A number of students from Hopkinton Middle High School have written thoughtful letters to the Monitor about this issue and their opposition to HB544.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Davies
Concord

Debra Martone

From: Anne Grossi <adgrossi7982@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 1:22 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Chuck Morse; Lou D'Allesandro; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: HB2

Hello,

I live in Bedford, NH and I am writing to you about HB2 which was passed by the House and is now moving to the Senate.

I am concerned about an amendment that has been attached which has nothing to do with the budget, or as the bill states, "relative to state fees, funds, revenues and expenditures."

Amendment number 76:

Defines and prohibits the dissemination of certain divisive concepts related to sex and race in state contracts, grants, and training programs.

does not belong in the state budget. Besides not belonging in a budget, I cannot imagine that this is Constitutional. This will be challenged by many groups in the state and the state should not be spending money on fighting lawsuits over an amendment that is not about the budget.

Our state Senators and Representatives should be focused on passing a budget and not focused on stopping trainings related to sex and race. How will the police do implicit bias training if something like this is included in the budget? And who is to determine what divisive means? This kind of amendment is opening up a can of worms that will cause more divisiveness, which is not what we need in New Hampshire.

I hope that you will oppose this amendment and work on having it removed.

Thank you,
Anne Grossi

Debra Martone

From: Wendy Hunt <whunt@nashuachamber.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:50 AM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: Please maintain funding for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at full levels

April 12, 2021

NH Senate Finance Committee

Dear Senator Daniels and members of the Committee;

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce to ask your consideration to maintain funding for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at full levels of at least \$440,000 per year in the House budget for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. The SBDC is a line item within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budget.

The Greater Nashua Area Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization covering 11 cities and towns in Southern New Hampshire. Within those 11 communities, our members have about 59,000 employees. The Chamber has heard from numerous small business members about the value they have received from SBDC.

Members comments have included words like; "The SBDC has played a vital role in helping us navigate through the pandemic. Our SBDC advisor has spent significant time advising us through the gamut of relief options and has been an integral part of why we are still open today". From another, "In my opinion, there is no other resource in NH with the depth of skill and knowledge to replace what the NH SBDC has built over decades of operation in the state"

I could go on, but just know there were more from members who had looked for startup help to those seeking advice on expansion. Suffice it to say, the value SBDC brings to NH cannot be overstated.

As New Hampshire moves toward full recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, it seems very unwise for our state to defund an organization that can help our small businesses rebound and thrive. Therefore, I request that you include full funding for SBDC in the budget.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Wendy Hunt, President & CEO
Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce
60 Main Street, Suite 200
Nashua, NH 03060
603.881.8333
whunt@nashuachamber.com



April 20, 2021

Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of Senate Finance
Senate Finance Committee
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Relative to restoring funding to the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests that the Senate Finance Committee restores state funding to the SBDC to \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Our chamber is comprised of over 400 businesses, of which over 80 percent are businesses with less than 10 employees. We see first-hand the challenges of small business and the valuable resources that the SBDC provides to help them be successful.

While the Chamber and the SBDC both help businesses succeed, the SBDC offers highly individualized business advising, unique educational programming, and specific business services that complement Chamber offerings. Throughout the pandemic, the SBDC has partnered with Chambers statewide to, efficiently and effectively, provide the NH business community with access to the information and resources they needed to survive.

The SBDC has demonstrated it is a sound investment. Data shows a state investment of \$440,000 resulted in a total economic impact of \$166,000,000. In 2020, the SBDC supported 7,178 small businesses and 214 New Hampshire communities. Most importantly, the state investment in SBDC helps the organization leverage additional funding to help businesses. The Small Business Act results in a \$1 to \$1 federal funding match for state/local investment in SBDC.

The Chamber respects the challenges of putting together a balanced budget that meets the needs of the citizens and businesses of the state. We hope that committee members see the tremendous value in SBDC's work to help NH's business community. It is truly worthy of the requested investment.

Please feel free to contact me through the Chamber office at (603) 893-3177 if you have any questions.

Regards,

Donna Morris
President

Depot Train Station, 81 Main Street, Salem, NH 03079

Phone: 603-893-3177 Fax: 603-894-5158 Web: www.gschamber.com

ATKINSON ♦ HAMPSTEAD ♦ PELHAM ♦ SALEM ♦ WINDHAM

Debra Martone

From: Dawn Berry <dcbnh@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:53 AM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Subject: Oppose - Divisive Concepts Language (HB 544) included in Budget

Dear Senators,

Although HB 544 is effectively defeated by a division vote in the House, its menacing tentacles are still trying to reach out into the State of NH. I already sent a letter to Senate President Chuck Morse co-signed by 26 other residents of Hopkinton, Concord, Warner, and Webster expressing our opposition to this language of divisive concepts which in itself is both divisive and an attempt to protect a white hegemony. I urge you to do the right thing and remove this from the budget.

Many schools are incorporating curriculums that include marginalized voices and hidden histories. New Hampshire businesses already engage in diversity training. The Police Training and Standards Council have already been adding Implicit Bias Training in their curriculum for new recruits and are ready to implement more of the recommendations of the Governor's LEACT commission with adequate funding. Please, this is not the time to take a step backward.

Thank you for your consideration of my opposition, and from the letters to the editors and op-eds in the Union Leader and Concord Monitor, only two of the NH papers I have seen, there is considerable opposition to this language and its intent.

Sincerely,
Dawn Berry

Rev. Dr. Dawn C. Berry
30 Old Putney Hill Rd.
Hopkinton, NH 03229
603-496-2335

The hard thing when you get old is to keep your horizons open. The first part of your life everything is in front of you, all your potential and promise. But over the years, you make decisions; you carve yourself into a given shape. Then the challenge is to keep discovering the green growing edge. Howard Thurman

Debra Martone

From: Sean <sokane55@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:54 AM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Cc: georgebald99@gmail.com; jeffrey.j.rose10@gmail.com
Subject: Fully Refunding SBDC

Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of Senate Finance, Legislative Office Building, SH Room Senate Chamber, North State Street Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee:

Small businesses represent 99% of New Hampshire's business community and employ roughly half of our State's workforce. For 36 years the NH Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has been the trusted resource that over 106,000 businesses have turned to for advice and education. There has never been a time in recent history where continued investment in the NH SBDC has been more important to the recovery and growth of the State's economy and workforce. Since 1984 NH SBDC has thrived as a productive cooperative agreement of three partners: the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the State of NH, and the University of New Hampshire as its host institution. All three partners are critical to the ongoing success of the SBDC program. Each partner provides financial support (cash and in-kind) and resources to SBDC. **The state's investment of \$440,000 in 2020 resulted in SBDC providing a total annual economic impact to the Granite State of \$166.3 million.** Continued state investment in the SBDC will help the network continue to provide support to thousands of small businesses, but it will help our economy recovery faster, grow our tax base and create jobs.

From my days as Commissioner of the Department of Resources and Economic Development, and since, I have maintained a keen respect and appreciation for the complementary services and resources SBDC brings to the table. There is no other state or federal resource partner in New Hampshire that provides the high level of business advising and training to companies that SBDC does. The Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) does not have the resources nor capabilities to provide the training, education, and advisory functions that the SBDC does. Without the SBDC, small businesses, that lack the wherewithal or financial resources to pay for private business consulting, will suffer.

I realize the House Finance Committee restored \$225,000 of last year's \$440,000 to the SBDC budget from what the Governor had proposed. It is imperative to restore the full \$440,000 to the SBDC budget, as it will have a significant impact on the matching Federal funding for which they will also be eligible. The federal funds expect at least a 50% match, so \$2 for the \$1 invested. In this current fiscal year, 50% has resulted in \$378K. The State funds help in SBDC's access to those Federal funds. Based on the tremendous successes SBDC has delivered over the years, the loss of this funding will have dire consequences that could prove disastrous for small businesses in New Hampshire as there is no viable way SBDC can find alternative financial sources to close that gap in funding. Without the State's fully restored support, SBDC will be forced to ramp down operations.

If you truly support small businesses and want to see our Main Street's vibrant and the State's economy recover, I strongly urge you to fully restore SBDC's funding. NH SBDC is a smart and well-proven investment you can make in the future of our great State.

Sincerely yours,

R. Sean O'Kane
Commissioner, Department of Resources and Economic Development
April 2004 – March 2006

Seacoast Economic Development Stakeholders
c/o James Burdin, AICP
Strafford Regional Planning Commission
150 Wakefield Street, Suite 12
Rochester, NH 03867

April 20, 2021

Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee
New Hampshire State House Senate Chamber
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03303

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members:

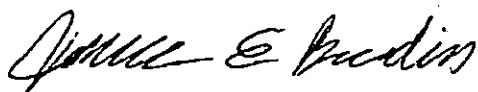
I am writing on behalf of the Seacoast Economic Development Stakeholders to express our concern at the proposed budget reduction for the NH Small Business Development Center (SBDC) line item under the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budget. While we are grateful that the House of Representatives restored some funding for SBDC in their approved budget, we feel that any reduction below the current annual funding amount of \$440,000 will have significant negative impacts on our businesses.

As you are aware, SBDC uses all state funds to match federal grants from the US Small Business Administration; the State of New Hampshire's annual funding of \$440,000 leverages a further \$880,000 in federal funds. We are very concerned that no other organization could fill this funding gap, and that we would therefore see a massive reduction, if not complete elimination, of SBDC's services in the next biennium.

We are particularly reliant upon SBDC for their free business counseling services for our region's businesses. SBDC's services are confidential, professional, and offer in-depth counseling based on each business's unique needs. While many of us have expertise in marketing, economic analysis, or assisting with business relocation, we lack the capacity and knowledge base to advise individual businesses about their operations. Moreover, as representatives of the municipalities, lending institutions, or other organizations that we serve, we lack the legal authority to provide financial, legal, or operations advice to private businesses.

Over the past year many of our organizations have referred businesses to SBDC on a weekly basis for everything from interpreting state reopening guidance to accessing federal relief programs and managing their cashflow to continue to meet their financial obligations. SBDC assistance has directly supported hundreds of small businesses in our region alone, and their ongoing support will be an essential resource for these businesses, many of whom do not expect to fully recover until at least 2022 or 2023.

Sincerely,



James E. Burdin, AICP
Strafford Regional Planning Commission
On behalf of the Seacoast Economic Development Stakeholders
Co-signed:

Laurel Adams
President
Regional Economic Development
Center

Daniel Barufaldi
Economic Development Director
City of Dover

Jennifer Czysz, AICP
Executive Director
Strafford Regional Planning
Commission

Dennis McCann
Executive Director
Strafford Economic Development
Corporation

Emmett Soldati
Teatotaler
Somersworth

Reid Amy
Deputy Director of Economic
Development
City of Dover

Nancy Carmer
Economic Development Manager
City of Portsmouth

Margaret Joyce
President
Greater Dover Chamber of
Commerce

Valerie T. Rochon
President
The Chamber Collaborative of
Greater Portsmouth

Christine Soutter
Economic Development Director
Town of Durham

Darren Winham
Economic Development Director
Town of Exeter

Karen Anderson
Economic Development
Coordinator
Town of Newington

Robin Comstock
Economic Development Manager
City of Somersworth

Ute Luxem
Profile Bank
Somersworth

Michael Scala
Director of Economic
Development
City of Rochester

Jennifer Wheeler
President
Exeter Area Chamber of
Commerce

Debra Martone

From: Greg Peatfield <mazecreator@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 12:14 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; Chuck Morse
Subject: NH SBDC's funding in the proposed state budget

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of New Hampshire Senate Finance - State House;

I have been made aware of possible plans to reduce and ultimately eliminate the state budget for the NH SBDC over the next few years. This action has given me great concern about the state's Small Business development moving forward. I have personally worked with many great advisors within the NH SBDC over the years. I have even referred other small businesses to the NH SBDC for advice and assistance.

From a personal stand-point, I will tell you my relationship with the NH SBDC has given me the strength to push forward with R&D as well as exploration of new businesses activities within the State of New Hampshire. I know they have my back when I am running forward which is part of the security/help I need to progress to my end goals. Eliminating this service will certainly put ice on my movement and development within the state. With some new projects I am working on, I am near the state border with Massachusetts and the NH SBDC is the only reason why I haven't started to explore placing my current project in Massachusetts.

I feel that many clients of the NH SBDC will see this the same way. It is the talent and skills contained within the NH SBDC which anchor our business plans within the state and help us to push forward in trying time, and let me tell you the COVID-19 pandemic is a trying time. I am looking forward to working with this group in planning a post COVID-19 recovery and growth over the next few years. The planned reduction and ultimate elimination of the NH SBDC are very troubling to me and my plans within the State of New Hampshire.

I request the State of New Hampshire continue to support the NH SBDC at a minimum funding level of \$440,000/Year. This seems pretty reasonable for the value this talented organization brings to not only myself but to all of their clients across the State of New Hampshire. On behalf of the entrepreneurs within the state, do not cut off your nose to spite your face. Small business is the backbone of the New Hampshire economy.

Thank you for your attention in this matter,

Gregory Peatfield
2 Wason Ln
Atkinson, NH 03811
(603) 489-1551 ext 1
mazecreator@gmail.com

Debra Martone

From: Patti Anastasia <patti.anastasia@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:59 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Cc: Sharon Carson
Subject: The House Budget needs fixing

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to you to urge you to fix the many problems in the House Budget. The House budget is not fiscally responsible or balanced, and it includes non-budgetary policy items that do not belong in the budget.

The fact that the House Finance committee included and approved non-budgetary policy items in their budget is of great concern to me. Regardless of the content of the policy items, it is imperative that we work together to stop these attempts at legislating policy through the budget. Policy items must continue to be addressed as separate legislation, not by sliding them into the budget, where they have no place. It is dangerous to set a precedent of the state budget becoming a policy making tool. We need a budget that is focused solely on spending and raising the money to fund basic government programs. To that end, it is imperative that the parts of the budget that address the following policy issues be removed from the budget and be addressed, as appropriate, as separate legislation:

- prohibiting divisive concepts related to sex and race in state contracts, grants, and training programs
- requiring legislative approval of states of emergencies beyond the first 21-day declaration
- prohibiting abortion care providers from providing health and family planning services unless they physically and financially separate abortion procedures from these services
- allowing betting on historical horse racing

This House budget is short on investments in public education, public health and health care, and affordable housing. The health and economic needs of those with the fewest resources have been greatly impacted by this recession. Our state budget should help build an equitable, inclusive, and sustainable recovery for all of NH's citizens.

This budget shifts funding toward local property payers. I am no fan of taxes, but I am very concerned that the reduction of and phased elimination of interest and dividends taxes, and the reduction in business profits tax rate will result in lower state revenues and lead to increases in local property taxes.

regards,
Patti Anastasia
50 Holstein Avenue
Londonderry, NH

Debra Martone

From: Dave McManus <dmcmanus@nearfieldmagnetics.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 4:13 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; Chuck Morse
Subject: SBDC Funding

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the New Hampshire Senate Finance Committee:

It has been brought to my attention that the proposed budget for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 significantly reduces and then eliminates funding for the SBDC. This line item can be found in the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budget. I believe that this would be a serious mistake resulting in a reduction in the number of companies being started in New Hampshire and the great jobs these companies bring to the state.

I have worked with Ms. Julie Glosner at SBDC for over 10 years. Her guidance and commitment over these years has helped us work through some difficult periods and helped us focus on doing the right things to build the business. Julie recently introduced me to a contact in her extensive network that has us on a path to closing \$3M in equity funding. She has also introduced us to another New Hampshire startup that has a technology we can integrate into our product offering thereby speeding time to market. I can't say enough about the excellent work Julie and her colleagues do in support of the startup ecosystem and the jobs their work brings to New Hampshire. It would be a shame to lose the SBDC, an engine of economic growth in the state.

I therefore respectfully request that the Committee review this budget line item and restore it to a minimum level of \$440,000 per fiscal year. I am confident that this action will return multiples more to the local economy than the dollars expended.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. Please feel free to contact me at 978-793-2328 if you would like to discuss my concerns further.

Best Regards,

David McManus
CEO
Near Field Magnetics, Inc.
978-793-2328
dmcmanus@nearfieldmagnetics.com
www.nearfieldmagnetics.com

Debra Martone

From: Franz Haase <franz@metrocast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 5:09 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Cc: Ed Miles
Subject: SBDC Budget

Greetings Senate Committee Members,

My name is Franz Haase and I am the president of ECO 4 TEK. We are a start up technology company. I do not have to tell you the challenges facing a new start up, especially in the environment we have been living in this past year. Luckily, early on, I stumbled on to a tremendous resource that was available; SBDC. This resource ,specifically Mr. Ed Miles, was vital to me and my company in navigating the stormy seas of new business development. I am sure this is true of many other New Hampshire small businesses, new and old. With this being said, I STRONGLY!! urge the budget committee to restore SBDC's minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 20323.

I believe in the committees goal of fiscal responsibility. But I believe a cut in this budget line item may serve a short term goal, but will have a devastating long term effect on New Hampshires 's small businesses and our economy.

In conclusion I would ask the committee to think long and hard on the overall effect of cutting the budget of this tremendous resource to our business community.

Respectfully,

Franz P Haase

Debra Martone

From: Sheila Oranch <sheila@coppertoppe.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 5:52 PM
To: Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone
Cc: info@coppertoppe.com; info; 'NH Small Business Development Center'; 'Frank Cocchiarella'; 'Britta Hallberg'
Subject: support for SBDC's budget

First, thank you for your service. Without our dedicated legislators, our state would be a sad place.

We are writing as small business owners to encourage you to continue and even increase support for the SBDC. The educational and financial opportunities administered through the SBDC system have been valuable for the 16 years we have been in business and even more so in the COVID era.

We operate two very different businesses that share the common value of helping people. We support ourselves and two part-time employees. We use local services, hire contractors and trades, buy local goods, and contribute to community organizations. Over the years, we have employed and trained many young people who have gone on to college and professional careers.

Without the resources provided through the regional outlets, we might not have been as successful. Small businesses are the lifeblood of New Hampshire communities. At our bed and breakfast, we attract, welcome, and host the tourists who bring fresh cash to our state. Our guests often tell us that they considered bigger venues in other states but chose our place. Why? Because we ARE small, clean, safe, friendly and in one of the most beautiful places in the world. Their money goes around and around our region—through restaurants, shops, gas stations, supermarkets, attractions, state parks and events.

Our other business is computer support, a service that is more essential now than ever before. Keeping small businesses, non-profits, and even individuals and families functional and SAFE again goes around and around. This business also sustains other local businesses and enables people to flourish in the new digital environment.

We do not have management teams of MBAs and CPAs. Without the expertise and timely information that is passed along by the SBDC through GRDC/SBA and the Plymouth Enterprise Center, we would be hard pressed to keep up with all the technical and legal requirements to do business well and properly in New Hampshire.

Remember what Henry Ford said, "I would rather have one percent of a hundred men than 100% of one man." A distributed system of many small businesses provides a flexible, resilient base for a thriving business economy in New Hampshire. Please keep that in mind when discussing funding for our public BUSINESS education and support system.

Sheila and Bill
~~~~~

Sheila Oranch, Innkeeper/JP/wedding planner

Bill Powers, Innkeeper/IT consultant

Coppertoppe Inn & Retreat Center

8 Range Road, Hebron, NH 03241

603-744-3636, [info@coppertoppe.com](mailto:info@coppertoppe.com)

[www.coppertoppe.com](http://www.coppertoppe.com)

Where guests are pampered and appreciated!

## Debra Martone

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**From:** kchase59@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 9:17 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NH State Budget

To the NH Senate Finance Committee,

I write today to strongly urge you to support enough funding for vital community services and programs and oppose unfair tax cuts for the wealthy in the state budget.

I urge you to oppose the language in the budget which prohibits implicit bias training and prohibits teaching about systemic racism and sexism. We do not need more divisive policy on these issues. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the disproportionate health and economic impacts that have been placed on communities of color and women. Letting this policy pass will further erode the state's capacity to face and remedy these systemic inequities head on.

Why is NH moving backwards with proposing these draconian policies? This is your opportunity **not** to facilitate regressive policy.

Sincerely,  
Karen Chase, RN  
Hanover, NH.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Cynthia Rand <cynthiarand@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 10:30 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Open Dialogue

Please consider the impact of preventing open discussion of racial issues. This is the history of our country, and we cannot put our heads in the sand, as well as hamstringing our teachers.

Cindy Rand

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Beverly Donovan <beverlydonovan@derrynh.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:33 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** FW: Support for SBDC Budget

Good Morning, Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of New Hampshire Senate Finance - State House,

I'm reaching out to you today because I feel it's important to share with you how much the NH Small Business Development Center has meant to the Town of Derry and it's businesses. Over the past several years, Derry Economic Development has built strong partnerships with the SBA, Center for Women & Enterprise, SCORE, the Greater Derry/Londonderry Chamber of Commerce, NH BEA and the NH SBDC. Of all of those partnerships, the NH SBDC has been the strongest, and one of the main reasons for formally opening the Derry Business Resource Center.

Although Derry Economic Development began providing meeting space to our partner groups two years ago, the Derry Business Resource Center was "officially" opened with the cutting of a ribbon on March 13th, 2020. We went into lockdown an hour later, and have remained closed to in-person meetings since. That didn't stop Julie Glosner from the NH Small Business Development Center from reaching out immediately to begin pumping out information and offers of help to myself, and businesses in and around Derry. Julie participated with me in the production of informational videos on EIDL Loans and PPP process, she continued meeting virtually with Derry businesses, sent links to webinars and videos on countless topics to help businesses in survival mode, and helped several local businesses create the plans that would ensure future success. When banks stumbled to help some of our local businesses through the first phase of EIDL and PPP funding, Julie and the NH SBDC staff was there to ensure that those businesses got the help that they so desperately needed. The NH SBDC has been INVALUABLE to Derry and needs to be preserved. I urge the Committee and Governor Chris Sununu to reconsider cutting this important funding at a time when New Hampshire's small businesses need this help more than ever.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

## **Beverly Donovan**

**Economic Development Director**

**Town of Derry**

**14 Manning Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**Derry, NH 03038**

**[beverlydonovan@derrynh.org](mailto:beverlydonovan@derrynh.org)**

**[www.derrynh.org](http://www.derrynh.org)**

**(603) 845-5407 – O**

**(603) 235-0857 – M**



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Deborah Baker <deborahba@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:04 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** just budget, NO ban on "divisive" topics

I'm writing to strongly urge you to support ample funding for vital community services and programs and oppose unfair tax cuts for the wealthy in the state budget. The pandemic has starkly impacted low wage workers and those with less wealth (savings, assets). I know people in their 20s who've been out of work or only able to find part time work for months. Economists indicate the wealth gap has grown, not shrunk, during the last year. It was already appalling. Why make it worse? Cutting taxes and worse, community services, as we've learned, doesn't "trickle down."

If you want to make NH better off, please consider starting by dealing with and funding what young people care about. Climate change. Racial justice. Well funded schools where children can be taught our actual history. Communities where gun control -- which the very vast majority of Americans of all political views support -- keeps people safe. Where every single vote counts, and every voter can vote absentee, with no reason given -- as works very, very well for the military, as many of you know. They won't stay and work here if you make this place a reactionary backwater that in no way appeals to their thankfully much stronger values than their elders have, because they won't want to raise families in such a place. I say this as someone who works with and parents younger people. They also won't have jobs, because corporations are starting to realize where their bread is buttered and are not going to stand with such foolishness as limiting the vote. Or limiting how history is taught.

So, I also urge you to oppose the language in the budget which prohibits implicit bias training and prohibits teaching about systemic racism and sexism. We can't move forward in this country if we do not acknowledge our true history, learn how to undo the legacies of that history, and make the future just and sustainable for all. Education is the start of this work.

Thanks,  
Deb Baker  
Concord, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Melinda Chen <maestrachen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:38 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** divisive concepts in budget bill

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to you about possible amendments you may be making to the budget bill that was just passed in the house. I am asking you to remove the language banning discussion of "divisive concepts," in schools and public job training. This language, which was originally part of HB 544, has no place in the budget, and bans free speech. Many schools, including our high school in Bedford, already teach about racism in this country's history, and passage of this bill may render that illegal. On the house floor during debate, one of the members referenced the bill as banning talk about "hard work." This language is from the racist canard that people of color are lazy and overly dependent on government aid. We reject such notions as a faulty understanding of systemic racism in this country. The people of NH deserve to have conversations about the way racism affects their daily lives, at work, in school, and public spaces. All people can benefit from these conversations.

Thank you,  
Melinda Chen, Bedford

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Nancy Kyle <nancy@retailnh.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 3:22 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** nh.sbdc@unh.edu  
**Subject:** Restoring NH SBDC's Budget

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I'm writing to you to respectfully request the restoration of the NH Small Business Development Center's (SBDC) funding to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The SBDC budget is a line item within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budget.

The New Hampshire Retail Association is a non-profit trade association of over 700 businesses in the state. Our mission is to advocate for, promote, and support New Hampshire retailers and 95% of our members are small retailers located in NH.

We've partnered with NH SBDC for many years and many of our members have taken advantage of what they have to offer. In addition to one-on-one, confidential business advising, the NH SBDC Center offers educational training programs and services designed to help a business take the next step and forge their path forward in specialized topic areas.

This past year NH SBDC created a [COVID Assistance](#) landing page that saw over 33,000 visits, and they delivered over 230 webinars since April, 2020 which have reached more than 5,000 individuals. Their information was critical to helping NH retailers navigate the crazy new Covid-19 world and helped them survive.

Again, we respectfully ask you to reinstate their budget to a minimum of \$440,000 per year. Thank you in advance.

Nancy Kyle

**Nancy C. Kyle, President/CEO**  
**New Hampshire Retail Association**  
*"The NH Retail Association's mission is to advocate for, promote and support NH Retailers"*  
48 Grandview Road, Suite 2, Bow, NH 03304  
603-225-9748, fax 603-229-0060, [www.retailnh.com](http://www.retailnh.com), [nancy@retailnh.com](mailto:nancy@retailnh.com)



#MASKUPNH 



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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Nancy Miles <nmiles3342@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 4:18 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Budget priorities

Greetings,

My name is Nancy Miles and I'm a resident of Hanover. I urge the Budget Committee to support adequate funding needed for community services that are vital to all the communities in the state. I specifically urge you to oppose the language currently in the budget that would prohibit implicit bias training and would prohibit discussions in our schools and other areas about systemic sexism and racism in our society. We must face these issues honestly and objectively if we are ever going to be able to have a fair and equitable society.

In particular, the state should fairly tax both the wealthy individuals and corporations -- tax cuts for the wealthiest severely limit the state's revenues and thereby decrease needed investments in services that all residents need. We must have a fair and equitable tax system where both people and businesses contribute according to their ability to pay.

We need to invest in protecting our environment by supporting energy conservation, recycling opportunities, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy.

It's essential to invest in our public education system. I urge you to oppose investments in any kind of voucher program which would reduce funds going toward public education.

Thank you,

Nancy Miles

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Barbara Widger <b.uuidger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 6:14 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; Kevin Cavanaugh  
**Subject:** State budget concerns

*Hello,*

*I am Barbara Widger, resident of Manchester NH*

*Please support ample funding for our vital community services and programs and oppose unfair tax cuts for the wealthy in the state budget. Teaching & learning about systemic racism and sexism is important for both our students and adult citizens so my husband and I urge you to oppose the language in the budget which prohibits implicit bias training. As the COVID-19 public health pandemic lays bare the disproportionate health and economic impacts on communities of color and women, this policy would erode our capacity to face these systemic inequities forthrightly and effectively.*

*Barbara Widger 171 High Ridge Rd, 03104-3928*

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Virginia Schonwald <virginia@schonwald.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 7:20 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** State Budget

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members -

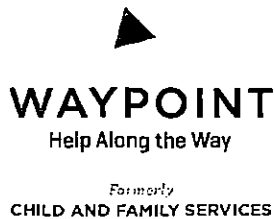
Please pass a budget that supports the health and welfare of NH citizens - now is not the time for tax cuts for large corporations and the wealthy, while so many in New Hampshire don't have enough food for their families and are homeless or in danger of losing their homes. In the midst of a pandemic is the time to add to the budget of the Department of Health and Human Services, not to cut it!

I do what I can to support this need in my community by donating regularly to the local food bank, giving blood at Red Cross Blood Drives and supporting NH Mutual Aid. But my small contribution is no match for the enormous need. Please, please pass a budget to support the needs of average people - not those who already have more than they need.

Thanks for listening!

Virginia Schonwald

Barrington, NH



Chairman Daniels and Members of Senate Finance,

Waypoint, formerly known as Child and Family Services has been serving NH's children and families since 1850. We have been running a Home Care program for seniors for more than 50 years and we are facing an immediate crisis. Currently state reimbursement for Waypoint's \$2.6 million Home Care program runs some \$700,000 short each year. This shortage is expected to exceed \$800,000 next year as Waypoint is required to purchase equipment and services to comply with new electronic visit verification, a federal monitoring requirement.

Waypoint will be forced to take the following steps to rectify the shortfall of state dollars to run its CFI (Choices for Independence) program:

First, Waypoint will continue to move its home care resources to Title XX programs which are reimbursed at \$24 an hour, and away from CFI which is reimbursed at \$19.54 an hour.

Second, Waypoint will only provide services to CFI clients at the fully authorized number of hours to comply with CFI requirements. This means the number of CFI hours billed by Waypoint will remain the same, but the number of clients served will be significantly reduced.

Third, Waypoint will limit the number of CFI clients it accepts to those located in the City of Manchester and stop providing services in the Concord and Nashua areas. This will significantly reduce Waypoint's travel time and costs, which are not reimbursed by the state, and allow our CFI program to comply with charitable grants that are Manchester based and focused.

With these changes Waypoint projects that the number of CFI clients it serves will be reduced from 200 clients per year to about 100 CFI clients per year.

Waypoint does not take these actions lightly. The number of seniors requiring home based nursing home care increases every year, and there are fewer providers willing to deliver these services. Unfortunately, as a nonprofit business, Waypoint can no longer sustain its business model based on CFI rate of \$19.54 an hour. We hope that the Senate Budget incorporates a rate increase so that Waypoint can reverse these policy decisions and continue to serve our most vulnerable NH seniors.

Sincerely,

Borja Alvarez de Toledo, M.Ed.  
President and CEO



# WPPC

## Wellness & Primary Prevention Council

May 4, 2021

The Honorable Gary Daniels, Chairman  
Senate Finance  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Senator Gary Daniels and Members of the Committee,

The Wellness and Primary Prevention Council (WPPC) appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony urging Senate Finance to include \$1,375,000 a year in critical funding for primary prevention services in the Fiscal Year 22-23 budget.

New Hampshire has long recognized that investment in the wellness of families reduces social and economic cost. In 1999, the Legislature adopted RSA 126-M which created the WPPC and statutorily charged it to encourage, facilitate, and promote primary prevention and early intervention. The intent, explicitly stated, was based on the understanding that investment in primary prevention is cost effective, beneficial for families, and critical to the future of our state<sup>1</sup>.

The WPPC submits testimony today in line with our statutorily-created duty to support a system of primary prevention in New Hampshire.

### **What is Primary Prevention and Why Do We Need to Invest**

It is imperative that the State continue to sustain investment in Family Resource Centers and primary prevention programs through the Parental Assistance Program. These programs are essential in the prevention and mitigation of childhood trauma and provide multi-generational supports which enable families to thrive.

Countless studies have shown us that early experiences literally shape the architecture of the developing brain, and the active ingredient is the “serve and return” nature of children’s engagement in relationships with caring adults. We also know that some kinds of stress can derail healthy development. Certain experiences are so severe or chronic that they produce toxic stress in children, which damages developing brain architecture, leading to lifelong problems in health, learning and behavior.

Located throughout the state, Family Resource Centers (FRCs) work in communities to create the conditions that promote healthy development and family well-being. FRCs are built on a research-based framework of family support, which focuses on helping families build on their own strengths

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/X/126-M/126-M-1.htm>

and access resources that are available in their communities to further their well-being. Because FRCs are embedded in communities, the programs are tailored to the needs of the community they serve, and so are both flexible and responsive to family and community needs. These programs not only help meet the needs of families now, but provide long-term cost savings for the State well into the future.

### **Primary Prevention supported through Parental Assistance Funds is a Non- Partisan Issue**

In 2018, New Hampshire made a commitment to children through the passage of SB 592. This bill sought to address challenges facing our child welfare system and as part of that work created the Parental Assistance Program (PAP). A bipartisan effort, the PAP was intended to direct interventions to areas of high need and to increase access to primary prevention services for families to prevent harm before it occurred. To ensure funds were utilized as the legislature intended, SB 592 required that the Department of Health and Human Services report on outcomes to the Wellness and Primary Prevention Council.

Given the importance and need within our communities, additional funding was allocated to the PAP in 2019. These funds were housed in the DCYF budget, but collaboratively allocated between DHHS and DCYF given the understanding of how intrinsically linked child protection is to primary prevention programming.

The Parental Assistance Program currently supports a variety of the most critical primary prevention programs in NH. This includes the Community Collaborations grants in three regions (Manchester, the Winnepesaukee public health region, and Coos County) targeted home visiting programs, kinship navigation and supports for a system of family resource centers. Each one of these programs are operating well and responding to community needs.

The potential loss of these programs not only undermines the legislative intent, but puts children and families at risk. These are community-based programs in communities of high need that work to establish an integrated continuum of family support services such as mental health, substance misuse treatment, economic supports, home visiting and educational programs to prevent child abuse and adverse childhood experiences and reduce the number of children entering foster care.

The key investments of the Parental Assistance Program enable NH to receive millions in additional federal grant funding that is aligned with the work. Elimination of state investment, particularly with respect to the Community Collaborations grant, sets New Hampshire up to lose out on continued federal investment.

On March 4, 2021, Governor Sununu issued a letter urging Senate and House leadership to fund programs based on additional revenues and included these programs in that recommendation. However, the House did not include these funds in its budget proposal.

Given the legislative history, bipartisan support, and the importance of primary prevention in NH, the Wellness and Primary Prevention Council respectfully requests that the Senate Finance Committee level fund programming at \$1,375,000 per year. The commitments of the legislature to children in 2018 should stand as strong in 2021, especially given the impacts of COVID-19. These investments will pay dividends long into the future.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Woitkowski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'W'.

Rebecca Woitkowski

Chair of the Wellness and Primary Prevention Council

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** rebecca.stoughton@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 8:37 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** nh.sbdc@unh.edu; rebecca.stoughton@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Restoration of SBDC Funding

**Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:**

As a long-time entrepreneur, startup investor, previous SBDC client (in Texas), and advisor to small businesses, I am writing to express my support for the restoration of funding for the NH Small Business Development Center to at least its current funding level of \$440,000 per year. SBDC is a line item within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budget, and Governor Sununu's budget proposal for FY 2022 and 2023 slashed that amount drastically and in fact zeroed it out in 2023. Thankfully, the House version of the budget passed last week included SBDC funding of \$225,000 per year, which is far better, but still insufficient to protect SBDC's services and **importantly, the critical federal funding match.**

Though the SBDC receives funding from the federal government and in-kind support from UNH, Governor Sununu's budget cut would decimate our SBDC (since federal funding is tied to state support) and would likely lead to NH being the only state in the union without an SBDC. Surely we cannot let this happen! Over 99% of the state's business qualify for assistance from the SBDC, and thousands have taken advantage of that aid, even more so in response to their world being turned upside down by the pandemic. Our state needs to send a strong message to both current and potential residents and business owners that it *welcomes* small businesses; not that it dismisses their importance out of hand.

I urge you to restore SBDC funding levels to at least \$440,000 per year, so that our state can continue to provide these crucial services to the small businesses that are vital to our economy and way of life.

Respectfully,  
Rebecca Stoughton  
Amherst, NH  
Technology Transfer Consulting Business Owner

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Susan Richman <susan7richman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 8:49 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** In OPPOSITION to HB 544

Dear Chairman Daniels and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

***Live Free or Die*** does not exist if we have a gag order. Please remove the language of HB 544 "Divisive Concepts" from the state budget bill.

How can we make sure our future generations do not continue the tradition of harm to communities of color, if New Hampshire teachers are forbidden to discuss race?

Are we to pretend slavery never existed? That there were no internment camps for the Japanese?

In the totalitarian world George Orwell created in 1984, the main character spends his days changing the stories in newspapers to fit what the government wants people to think. Is that how we are going to teach history? Are we yearning for a totalitarian state? for censorship?

I hope we can continue to be a democracy. I hope we can tell the difference between truth and lies, and that our teachers will be allowed to teach the true history of this country.

Remove the totalitarian language of HB 544 from the state budget!

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

--

*Susan Richman  
16 Cowell Drive  
Durham, NH 03824  
603-868-2758*

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Claudia Damon <cordsdamon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 9:03 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NH voter urges opposition to HB544.

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I firmly oppose and urge you to firmly oppose the divisive HB544 in whatever form it comes before you. HB544 prevents conversations about race and violates 1st Amendment rights, thus inviting costly lawsuits. Our entire population, including students, is entitled to open conversations, not censorship. We do not live in a society that favors censorship like what HB544 provides, even requires.

Thank you,  
Claudia Damon  
Concord, NH

My name is Carolyn Dever, and I am a resident of Hanover, NH. I come to you today as a parent and a concerned citizen to express my strong opposition to the “divisive topics” bill: HB544, which has been incorporated into HB2, the state budget.

First, thanks to all the members of the Senate Finance Committee, and to their staff, for your service to our communities. The opportunity for public comment you have made available today is a model for the form of open discussion we need if we hope to strengthen New Hampshire to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future. Thank you for giving me the chance to express my perspective, and to learn from the perspectives of others. This is how democracy should always work: through dialogue, not censorship.

As I stated in a recent op ed in the Manchester Union leader, HB544 is not a New Hampshire idea. It is not a New Hampshire solution to a New Hampshire problem.

It is a “dog whistle” bill. It is identical to bills across the country that mirror the previous administration’s efforts to censor conversations about complex issues of history, identity, and equality. As employers across the state have made clear, the proposed legislation is regressive and, if passed, will do significant harm to New Hampshire’s economy.

I am the parent of a public school student in this state. My son, Noah, is a bright, capable, enthusiastic fifth grader who is eager to learn all about the world around him—the world that he and his classmates will one day inherit. Our son is one of only a few Black children in his school. It is crucial not only for him but for all his classmates to find ways to understand each other, to work together, to build our future together, in the context of their differences.

We strengthen our communities when we recognize our differences and use them to work together.

We are stronger together; we are weakened when we fear each other.

When New Hampshire gives voice to all its citizens, the state stands ready for future prosperity.

So, for Noah’s sake and for many other reasons, I ask you please: remove the “divisive concepts” bill from the New Hampshire state budget. Please, demonstrate that the freedom of speech still means something to New Hampshire’s “live free” culture.

## **Debra Martone**

---

**From:** Laura Aronson <laura@mlans.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 9:07 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Manchester resident against HB 544

Dear Senators,

Please defeat HB 544. It:

- Shuts down conversations about racism and sexism,
- Violates 1st amendment rights, and
- Invites costly lawsuits.

We choose communities not fear, and open conversations not censorship.

Thank you,  
Laura Aronson  
37 Evergreen Way, Manchester, NH 03102



## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Val Zanchuk <vzanchuk@graphicast.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:34 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey  
**Cc:** Debra Martone; nh.sbdc@unh.edu  
**Subject:** SBDC Funding

Dear Chairman.Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As the owner of a small manufacturing company in New Hampshire, I can tell you that the challenges of running a small business are not much different than those of larger businesses, having had experience with both. While we may have fewer employees and lower revenue, we are still subject to the same laws, regulations, standards, and economic conditions as those larger companies. A real difference between large and small is the depth and breadth of knowledge and capabilities of our staffs. We often don't have the resources to address every challenge facing us. Sometimes, we need to reach out to others for guidance in running our businesses, dealing with regulations, planning for growth and investments, and planning for succession. Thousands of small businesses reach out to the SBDC for that help. The SBDC provides honest, frank, expert guidance that companies can rely on year after year to help them prosper. That prosperity not only secures employment for our workers and a return for owners, but also ensures a steady stream of business tax revenue for the state. While one may argue that the small businesses can hire consultants to provide the same guidance as the free services of the SBDC, consultants are expensive and often out of reach for many small businesses. The economic return of the state's small investment in support of the SBDC has been paid for many times over during the life of the SBDC. Continuing that investment makes solid, economic sense for the state. This is not the state picking winners and losers. It is the state making smart use of taxpayer money to support an organization that is key to the success of thousands of businesses and the continued employment of tens of thousands of workers. I urge you to restore full funding to the SBDC to allow it to continue its important work to support our small business community.

**Val Zanchuk | President**

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Adria Bagshaw <adria.bagshaw@whbagshaw.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021 3:02 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; NH SBDC  
**Subject:** plea for funding increase for the NH SBDC

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to you to express my support for continued state funding of the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center (NH SBDC) and request the restoration of NH SBDC's funding to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Given the challenges that lie ahead for New Hampshire's small businesses, the committee should be looking at an increase to this funding, if anything!

We have been clients of the NH SBDC for over ten years and have used their services at several very important junctures during the evolution of our business. My husband Aaron has the distinct honor of being the 5<sup>th</sup> generation to run a manufacturing business that was founded in 1870. Together, and with the advising from the NH SBDC, we have breathed new life into the business, consolidated ownership, refinanced several times, invested in new technology and product lines, bought businesses, and doubling our revenue and increasing our headcount from a low of 15 employees up to 46 today.

This success translates to dozens of families getting a decent paycheck and benefits due to our ability to grow our business, making significant contributions to the NH economy. Through their effective advising, we have gained valuable experience and knowledge so today we are able to navigate these transactions more effectively and independently. However, we continue to attend their workshops and programs.

The NH SBDC advisors have been the single best source of information about the recovery related programs over the past year. They provided comprehensive webinars explaining the qualification and application process for the PPP and other programs. They are uniquely positioned to aggregate information from the SBA, other SBDC's and the network of state resources partners.

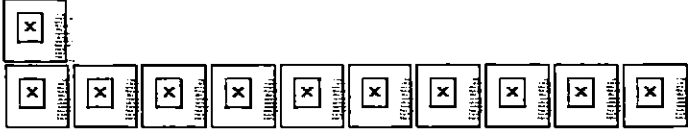
I have served on the NH SBDC board since 2010 and through that have been able to see the significant impact that the advisors have on clients, the thought that goes into the programs they develop, and how incredibly efficiently they work. I talk to bankers regularly who praise how prepared and qualified SBDC clients are.

We all know that small business is the backbone of New Hampshire's economy. From a purely practical standpoint, I would urge you to review their recent impact report so you can see the sound business decision it is to invest in the NH SBDC: <https://www.nhsbdc.org/nh-sbdc-2020-impact-report>

For these reasons, I, again, respectfully request the restoration of NH SBDC's funding to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 as a line item in the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budget. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adria Bagshaw  
Vice President, W.H. Bagshaw Company  
Advisory Board, NH SBDC



[SignaSource](#)

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Annie Rettew <abrettew@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021 4:31 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov  
**Subject:** I Oppose HB 544

After listening to Senator Morse on The Exchange last week, I was flabbergasted. Really? You think that the majority of NH citizens support this Orwellian bill? We are a state that is welcoming and smart. Let's have discussions and teach and learn, not rewrite history and ignore facts.

This is a dangerous and potentially expensive bill.

Get rid of it!

Thank you.

**Annie**

Annie Rettew, RN  
603-651-7000

**Debra Martone**

---

**From:** Janice Crawford <janice@mtwashingtonvalley.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021 4:57 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; nh.sbdc@unh.edu  
**Cc:** nh.sbdc@unh.edu.  
**Subject:** SBDC

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

**Quick and to the Point:** Save the SBDC for the State of NH businesses who count on their expertise!

Thank you,

J. Crawford  
Executive Director  
PO Box 2300  
North Conway NH 03860  
603- 356-5701 ext 303



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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Cora Long <CLong@familiesfirstseacoast.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 12:30 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Senate Budget Testimony

Now more than ever, healthcare centers throughout NH have been under strain making it difficult to serve our communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has made worse NH's ongoing healthcare workforce shortage. The open positions lead to longer wait times, staff under additional pressure, and backups in emergency departments, all of which prevent Granite Staters from getting the health care that they need.

I worked at a healthcare center that had a Student Loan Repayment Program and it was a primary reason many of my colleagues came to and stayed working at the center. The Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) provides partial payment toward educational loans in exchange for a commitment to serve in areas designated as Medically Underserved Areas with Medically Underserved Populations. It is a crucial loan program that makes it financially viable for critical health care workers to afford to practice and serve in our communities. When the program ended, many considered moving to neighboring states that had better compensation and Medicaid reimbursement rates.

When Granite Staters do not get the health care they need, our state suffers. To build a health care workforce capable of ensuring a healthy and thriving Granite State, critical investments are necessary to help recruit and retain primary, behavioral, and other care professional. That is why I urge lawmakers to support the Student Loan Repayment Program for healthcare professionals working in underserved areas and adequate Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Cora Long

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Cora Long <CLong@familiesfirstseacoast.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 12:35 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Senate Budget Testimony

In New Hampshire, there has been rapid increase in e-cigarette products among high school aged youth. The 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) shows that currently 33.8% of high school students report they have used e-cigarettes in the 30 days prior to taking the YRBS. Tobacco use takes a devastating toll on New Hampshire—killing more than 1,900 Granite Staters every year and costing the nation \$729 million in health care costs—much of it borne by taxpayers. It is a problem that starts with our children because nearly 90 percent of current smokers begin when they are 18 or younger.

Yet, we know that with the right supports in place, tobacco addiction is entirely preventable. Comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation programs are a proven method of preventing kids from starting to smoke and helping adult smokers quit.

Prevention programs in NH need to be invested in and supported. Defunding a tobacco prevention and cessation program while youth e-cigarette use continues to rise in our state seems to be a step backwards, rather than forwards and sends the wrong message to our NH residents.

I advocate for the Senate Finance Committee to restore funding for the My Life, My Quit tobacco prevention and cessation program. This funding is a drop in the bucket compared to the revenue raised through tobacco taxes. Investing in tobacco prevention is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do for Granite State youth. It saves lives and money. We know this from experience.

Regards,

Cora Long



**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS**  
**BUREAU OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES**  
105 Pleasant Street, Concord NH 03301  
603-271-5818 TDD ACCESS: 1-800-804-0909

**Youth Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program Funding**

**April 27, 2021**

Governor Chris Sununu

Patrick Tufts, Chairman  
Jaime Powers, Executive Director

Steve Ahnen

Senator Jeb Bradley

Major Russ Conte

Commissioner Frank Edelblut

Monica Edgar, NP

Representative Jess Edwards

Commissioner Helen Hanks

Representative William Hatch

Keith Howard

Joseph Johnsick

Timothy Lena

Chancellor Chuck Llyod

Attorney General Gordon MacDonald

Matt McKenney

Major General David Mikolaities

NH Liquor Commission Chairman  
Joseph Mollica

Honorable Tina Nadeau

Jeffery Nelson

Commissioner Chris Nicolopoulos

Commissioner Robert L. Quinn

Director Joseph Ribsam

Timothy Rourke

Kathie Sarri

Seddon Savage, MD

Stephanie A. Savard

Commissioner Lori Shabinette

Kate Thomson

Senator David Watters

The Honorable Senator, Gary Daniels, Chair

Senate Finance Committee

State House Room 103

Concord NH 03301

Dear Senator Daniels and Honorable Members of the Committee,

The Prevention Taskforce of the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery has become aware that Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Unit at DHHS requested for its budget an additional \$220,000 a year for state fiscal years 22 and 23 to continue funding an adolescent/teen tobacco helpline specializing in adolescent/teen vaping.

My Life, My Quit™ combines best practices for youth tobacco cessation, is adapted to include e-cigarettes and uses innovative ways to reach a cessation coach using live text messaging and online chat, which is proven to be most effective with young people. The program includes educational materials designed for teens and created through discussion with subject matter experts, community stakeholders, and youth focus groups. This important tool would fill a major gap in cessation services that have been traditionally focused solely on tobacco with an adult audience.

Unfortunately, funding to continue this important youth tobacco prevention and cessation program was not part of the House budget. We are advocating to restore these funds in the Senate phase of the budget- which is a drop in the bucket compared to the revenue raised through tobacco taxes.

Please consider these important statistics:

In New Hampshire, there has been rapid increase in usage of e-cigarette products among high school aged youth. The 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) shows that 33.8% of high school students report currently using e-cigarettes. The national average is 32.7%.





**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS**  
**BUREAU OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES**  
105 Pleasant Street, Concord NH 03301  
603-271-5818 TDD ACCESS: 1-800-804-0909

Tobacco use takes a devastating toll on our country – killing more than 480,000 Americans every year and costing the nation \$170 billion in health care costs – much of it borne by taxpayers. Locally, tobacco use takes a devastating toll on New Hampshire – killing more than 1,900 Granite Staters every year and costing the state \$729 million in health care costs.

This is a problem that starts with our children because nearly 90 percent of current smokers begin when they are 18 or younger.

New Hampshire takes in \$245.3 million annually in tobacco taxes and tobacco settlement payments, yet spends less than 1 (less than .02%) percent of it (\$360,000) on programs to prevent kids from smoking/vaping and to help smokers quit.

Comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation programs are a proven method of preventing kids from starting to smoke/vape and helping smokers quit.

It is critical that we fund tobacco prevention programs to keep kids from smoking/vaping because the big tobacco companies are spending huge sums promoting their deadly and addictive products to our youth, even in New Hampshire. The most recent data show the tobacco companies spend \$84.5 million each year on marketing and promotion in New Hampshire, much of which influences kids to smoke or vape. To break it down, the tobacco companies spend more than \$234.8 to market their products for every \$1 NH spends to prevent and/or reduce tobacco use.

We appreciate you taking the time to contemplate this important issue. Investing in tobacco prevention is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do. It saves lives and money. We know this from experience.

[https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/new\\_hampshire](https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/new_hampshire)

We are happy to discuss any of the above information further, and/or answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Tufts, Chair  
Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** David Blair <orionblair@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:21 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SB 130: a taxpayer's concerns

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I write to express my opposition to SB 130 being rolled into the budget. This is a significant bill, with major impact on education in NH and also on the budget. It should be handled separately from the entire budget so it gets the analysis and attention it deserves. We, the taxpayers, need to know what it will cost and what benefits it will bring.

Please do all you can to be sure it does get that attention.

Sincerely,

David Blair  
Harrisville, NH

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Sue Bracy <marysuebracy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 3:21 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; john.ReaganIII@gmail.com; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SB130

Dear Representatives,

As a NH resident, I am letting you know that SB130 does not belong 'attached' to the budget. We've elected representatives to vote on legislation...and that is what should be done. This bill should not be 'slid into' the budget to avoid its being voted on.

Sue Bracy  
19 Olde Mill Brook Road  
Dunbarton NH

Sent from my iPhone

Good afternoon and thank you for listening to this testimony. As a public educator in New Hampshire, I work every day with students who are making incredible efforts to achieve, pandemic or not. Their work is rewarding to them and is offered through public schools.

It is not up to public schools to pay for the tuition to private schools. That's why there is a designation of public and private. I do understand and acknowledge that private schools, including charters and religious schools, are important in the fabric of our society, and that they fulfill specific goals that families have for their children. These are choices families can make, and if they want their children to attend these alternate schools, they can pay the tuition. Many religious schools as well as charters have scholarships for those who cannot afford to pay the tuition. When school districts pay for tuition, and then the student returns to the public school system, the money doesn't follow the child. So school districts end up paying for them twice:

Public schools, as you know, are severely underfunded. The government has not done its job to fulfill IDEA. New Hampshire has put up obstacles in every direction to make sure local districts have to pay, while the state shirks its duties. How would it even be possible to have local districts now fund private and religious schools when they can't pay for their own?

New Hampshire has not solved its school funding issues, and until you do that, you can't even start to ask districts to pay to send students to other schools. Until you reassume the responsibility of paying part of public employees' retirement, you can't start asking. Until you assure that the money follows the child, you can't start asking. Until schools districts are able to afford the astronomical prices for out of district placements, you can't start asking. Until the private schools provide the same high quality education for special education students, you can't start asking. Until educators in private schools are required to maintain the same certifications and degrees as public educators, you can't start asking. Until private and religious school employees are held to the same standard as public educators and employees, you can't start asking. Until students in private and religious schools are accepted across the board in those schools, without discrimination, you can't start asking.

There is so much that needs to be done for education before considering legislation at this time. Please represent your constituents properly and vote no. The State needs to help all factors of education, not make one part suffer because it is building up another.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Hannan, Derry

## Debra Martone

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**From:** stefan@nearview.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 4:53 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Please Fully Restore SBDC Funding

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to you as a small business owner in New Hampshire, and **respectfully request that the State Legislature fully restore SBDC funding in the state budget for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.**

In fact, if anything this budget should be increased. Since I started my business 5 years ago, the SBDC has provided me with sound advice and support that has helped my business succeed. They have also provided me and many other businesses with the tools and information needed to navigate SBA lending programs during the COVID pandemic. I do not know of any other NH organizations (public or private) that have provided this level of expert business knowledge and consultation during the pandemic - PTAC certainly has not and does not provide this type of business development support and consult. The value of SBDC may be difficult to measure in dollars and cents, as SBDC support cannot always be valued or captured, e.g., in the amount of contracts won by NH small business. Perhaps if you compare the businesses that receive SBDC support, to those that do not, you will see which small businesses have thrived and survived difficult times.

SBDC has opened up doors for my business, and provided me with perspective, insight, motivation, and direction. I am very surprised that the NH legislature would even consider pulling support from our small business community that needs it most, and now more than ever. Again, please restore (and increase) the SBDC budget so that small businesses like mine will stay in New Hampshire, and with support from SBDC, enhance the economy and job growth in the state.

Kind Regards,

Stefan

Stefan Claesson, Ph.D.  
*Principal*  
*Certified UAS Mapping Scientist (ASPRS)*  
Nearview, LLC  
36 Maplewood Ave., Portsmouth, NH 03801  
Tel: 207-200-7879  
E-Mail: [stefan@nearview.net](mailto:stefan@nearview.net)



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# NH Bankers ASSOCIATION

May 3, 2021

Senate Finance Committee  
Room: SH 105  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The NH Bankers Association represent 38 member banks who employ roughly 6,000 employees. As many of our members work with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), we are writing to you today in support of continued funding in the State's FY22-23 Operating Budget for the SBDC.

Many people who are looking to start a new small business may not have the luxury of being counseled by a law firm or an accounting firm. Often times when they come to a bank for financing, there are pieces of the financing package that are not quite there yet. Our member banks often refer these entrepreneurs to the SBDC for additional assistance and guidance, to help get them ready for many facets of being a small business owner, including preparing them to be able to work with a bank on financing.

One member shared with us that prior to COVID they would refer, on average, 6 startups a month to the SBDC for assistance in developing business plans to be presented to the bank. They also provide additional skills and guidance for business owners to consider, aiding in their success. The SBDC has proven to be a valuable partner to the banking industry and assists in maximizing the success of small businesses, including guiding them through financing options.

The SBDC is a key resource to the New Hampshire small business community; a community that makes up 99% of all businesses in NH. According to the SBDC's 2020 Annual Report, last year alone they provided advising and training to over 7,000 clients and created and saved over 1,300 jobs.

We are pleased that the House restored funding to allow continued operations of the SBDC and that Governor Sununu reversed course on funding the SBDC, with additional revenues now available to the State. We respectfully ask that the Senate Finance Committee fully support the continued funding of the SBDC to ensure businesses have access to the needed assistance and helpful resources they provide. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kristy Merrill, President



Ryan Hale, VP Government Relations



## Growth Based Solutions for Manufacturers

---

Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of Senate Finance  
State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

March 26, 2021

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Member of Senate Finance:

We are New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NH MEP), a Network Affiliate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology under the U.S. Department of Commerce. We have provided services to over 812 manufacturers in our state, the majority have less than 50 employees. In the past, we had two SBDC employees sharing our offices in Concord. We had the pleasure of working with the team and referred and keep referring to them small business and start-up companies that need team business counseling and coaching.

I am writing on behalf of New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership to express our concern at the proposed budget reduction for the NH Small Business Development Center (SBDC) line item under the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budget. We feel that any reduction below the current annual funding amount of \$440,000 will have significant negative impacts on NH businesses.

As you are aware, SBDC uses all state funds to match federal grants from the US Small Business Administration; the State of New Hampshire's annual funding of \$440,000 leverages a further \$880,000 in federal funds. We are very concerned that no other organization could fill this funding gap, and that we would therefore see a massive reduction, if not complete elimination, of SBDC's services in the next biennium. The need of the small manufacturers for services to help them become resilient and grow will not be met and that will make a significant negative impact on the manufacturing sector – one of the major contributors to the state economy.

SBDC has a unique portfolio of services that no other organizations in the state can offer efficiently and effectively. Services to small businesses such as interpreting state reopening guidance to accessing federal relief programs and managing their cashflow to continue to meet their financial obligations have been instrumental during last year and will continue during the pandemic. SBDC assistance has directly supported hundreds of small businesses in the state, and their ongoing support will be an essential resource for these businesses, many of whom do not expect to fully recover until at least 2022 or 2023.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zenagui Brahim", written over a horizontal line.

Zenagui Brahim  
President, New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NH MEP)

# City of Keene, New Hampshire

George S. Hansel, Mayor

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4/16/2021

Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee

State House, Senate Chamber

107 North Main Street

Concord, NH 03303

RE: Funding to support the SBDC

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of the thirteen mayors listed below, I respectfully urge you to restore funding for the NH Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in the state budget to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

Combined, New Hampshire's mayors represent approximately 30% of the state's population and a large proportion of New Hampshire's businesses. In the state's thirteen cities, SBDC provided direct advising support to 491 clients in 2020. That support helped businesses access \$18.3 million in new capital, grow their sales by \$3.7 million, and create or save 586 jobs.

SBDC clients contribute significantly to our local communities and New Hampshire's economy. I urge you to provide funding to support the work of the SBDC in the years ahead. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

George Hansel, Mayor of Keene

Jim Bouley, Mayor of Concord

Jim Donchess, Mayor of Nashua

Robert Carrier, Mayor of Dover

Timothy McNamara, Mayor of Lebanon

Charlene Lovett, Mayor of Claremont

Caroline McCarley, Mayor of Rochester

Rick Becksted, Mayor of Portsmouth

Paul Grenier, Mayor of Berlin

Joyce Craig, Mayor of Manchester

Olivia Zink, Interim-Mayor of Franklin

Andrew Hosmer, Mayor of Laconia

Dana Hilliard, Mayor of Somersworth



## Debra Martone

---

**From:** David Testerman <Dave@sanbornhall.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 7:45 AM  
**To:** ~Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** HB1 and HB2

Colleagues,

I know that Chairman Weyler wrote you on House position on the budget, HB1 and HB2. I write you to confirm this. It is absolutely essential that the parts on Critical Race theory, the Governors Emergency Power and related fines on businesses for violating his draconian edicts are not removed. It is time that the House and Senate made it clear that we are the legislative bodies, and that the Governor has far overstepped his power.

Cheers!

Dave Testerman  
Representative for Franklin and Hill  
603-320-9524

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** seymournh@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 9:49 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; john.reagan@leg.state.nh.us  
**Cc:** craig@drgadvisory.com  
**Subject:** NH SBDC Funding

**DATE:** April 16, 2021  
**TO:** NH Senate Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Craig Seymour, State Director NHSBDC (1984-1986)  
**RE:** Funding for the NH Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

I am writing asking you to support the continued State funding for the NHSBDC program.

As the first State Director of the SBDC (and as a highly successful national economic development consultant for the past 35 years), I am acutely aware of the importance of small and mid-sized firms to the State's economy and their critical role in creating and sustaining employment opportunities. The SBDC grew out of the University of New Hampshire's long-standing statewide mandate and its outreach efforts to provide technical assistance and educational resources throughout the state to foster economic growth. When the opportunity arose to obtain funding from the U.S. Small Business Administration under the newly created SBDC program, it jumped at the chance to leverage these resources. Since the SBA funds required local match, I worked diligently with your predecessors in the House and Senate, and with then-Governor John Sununu, to come up with a \$100,000 appropriation for the first two years, contingent upon the program successfully reaching out and helping the state's entrepreneurs and growing businesses. The SBDC proved its value then, leading to continuous state match funding for the past 37 years. The legislature and governor at the time understood and recognized the importance that small and mid-sized business play in NH's economy.

Since that time, the SBDC has provided badly needed services to thousands of business owners and individuals seeking to start a new business in the state or improve their existing businesses. It has supported the creation of tens of thousands of jobs among small businesses and helped to build and sustain the state's economy, and as you are aware, small business is now, and always has been, the backbone of our economy. In fact, the average private business in the state (across all sectors) had only 12 employees in 2019. In the retail sector, it was 10, not counting big-box stores. For firms in the service sector it was fewer than 8 jobs per business.<sup>[1]</sup> SBA statistics indicate in the last decade the NH's 134,000+ small businesses employed 51% of the workforce and created 6,700 new jobs.<sup>[2]</sup> Moreover, the SBDC provides these services throughout the state, with special focus on the North Country and the more rural counties that have not equitably shared in the market-driven growth that has occurred in the southern portion of the state.

While the SBDC provides a variety of services ranging from business and financial planning to training, one very important, but unheralded success of the SBDC over the past three decades is the very large number of would-be entrepreneurs, who after receiving the hands-on training and frank counseling the SBDC provides, realize that what it takes to really make a business work and succeed is beyond their capabilities and decide not to pursue their 'dream', in many cases saving individuals and families from financial ruin. Those that do go on to start a business, are in a much better position to face the future with the tools and knowledge provided by the SBDC.

While the current Governor seeks to redirect funding into workforce development and other programs, it is important to remember that jobs in New Hampshire are created and sustained by entrepreneurs and their companies, most of which are small and in need of education, advice and support to succeed. In fact, I would argue that the NH SBDC is the state's best and most effective workforce development program! Measured on a

cost per job saved or created basis, the State's investment in the SBDC is by far the best economic development tool the State has. The current level of state funding for the SBDC provides the residents and taxpayers of New Hampshire an exceptional return on investment, effectively leveraging available federal and private dollars and returning far more to the State treasury in the form of business and employment taxes than the relatively small support cost it requires.

I urge you to retain the full \$440,000 in funding in the next budget.

Thank you and best regards,

*Craig R. Seymour*  
Durham, NH  
(603) 868-2441 - home  
(603) 781-0935 - cell

[1] NHES, 2019 QCEW Annual Averages  
[1] 2018 Small Business Profile, SBA Office of Advocacy

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[1] NHES, 2019 QCEW Annual Averages  
[2] 2018 Small Business Profile, SBA Office of Advocacy

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Helen Goodman <helengoodman123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 10:57 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; Bob Giuda  
**Cc:** NH SBDC  
**Subject:** NHSBDC Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

By any measure, New Hampshire is a small business state. Many of these businesses need assistance to get started, grow, and thrive. Through its array of services and thirty-six years of service to NH businesses, the NHSBDC has had significant impact in a sector that is the backbone of this state with 99% of the businesses having fewer than 500 employees.

My family and I have lived in New Hampshire since 1982. As a previous State Director of the NHSBDC (1989-1994), I am extremely concerned by the significant funding cuts proposed in the state budget. Thirty-six years of SBDC services have provided assistance to 106,000 businesses, including 7000 businesses in 2020 across 214 communities. Small business failures were reduced, with statistics showing that after 5 years, 80% of SBDC counseled business are still operating versus a 44% survival rate for non-assisted businesses. These businesses not only create jobs for their own employees, but they help create more vibrant communities, and impact multiple other businesses, suppliers, etc. plus pay a percentage of the business profits tax. SBDC has a total annual economic impact of \$166.3 million.

The SBDC funding is a line item within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) budget. It is critically important to sustain these small business services and their impressive return on investment and now, more than ever, as businesses and communities emerge from this terrible COVID year. The NHSBDC makes a tremendous difference for \$440,000 in state support (\$880,000 over the biennium) that brings in \$1 for \$1 in federal funding. I respectfully request that funding for this valuable program be restored to a minimum of \$440,000 per year.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Respectfully,

Helen Goodman  
14 Stone Quarry Dr., #407  
Durham, NH 03824  
603-848-0887 (cell)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Brenda Collins <info@hudsonchamber.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 11:24 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; john.regan111@gmail.com; Lou D'Allesandro; chuck.morese@leg.state.nh.us; bob.guida@leg.state.nh.us; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** nh.sbdc@unh.edu  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for SBDC

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am reaching out as the Committee considers our State's budget items, in particular, consideration of funding for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) a line item within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) budget. It is my hope that the Senate Finance Committee will consider restoring FULL funding of \$440,000 for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 for the indispensable services SBDC provides and which will also afford them the optimum critical federal SBA funding match available.

I feel it's important to share with you how much the SBDC has helped our members and the business community and feel it's vital for the SBDC to continue to have the funding needed for a robust operation in the State. This past year has been difficult for the small business community and the SBDC has been a steadfast asset locally and statewide. In 2020 NH SBDC supported 211 clients in the Greater Hudson Chamber's region. They helped those clients create and save 257 jobs, access \$10.96 million in new capital, and increase their businesses' sales by \$1.07 million. These clients self-reported that they had \$71.3 million in total annual sales. And these accomplishments are just for our area, they have impacted our economy in all counties of the State of NH. SBDC's total annual economic impact on the State of NH in 2020 was \$166.3 million.

SBDC has a tried-and-true track record of helping NH's businesses for over 36 years. SBDC is the state's leading provider of confidential, highly individualized, business advising and training for small businesses. SBDC helps businesses in any industry, and at any stage of growth with up to 500 employees, which is 99% of the businesses in NH. It has a statewide network and services are offered at no cost to NH businesses.

In 2020 alone, SBDC supported over 7,000 businesses in 214 NH communities through direct advising and training. They helped their clients:

- access over \$44 million in new capital
- increase their sales by close to \$10 million
- create and retain 1,300 Jobs

The Small Business Act mandates \$1 to \$1 local match to federal SBA funding and a 50% cash match. In FY20 and 21 they were appropriated state funds of \$440,000 per year for a total of \$880,000 over the biennium. By diminishing the funding, it will be limiting these matching funds which are imperative for the continued economic support the SBDC provides to our state.

I respectfully request consideration to reinstating full funding of \$440,000 per year for 2022 and 2023 to the State's Budget for the SBDC for all they do to support small businesses in NH and positively influence our State's economic vitality and growth.

Sincerely,  
**Brenda Collins, Executive Director**  
**Gr. Hudson Chamber of Commerce**

71 Lowell Road, Hudson NH 03051  
(603) 889-4731  
[www.HudsonChamber.com](http://www.HudsonChamber.com)  
email: [info@hudsonchamber.com](mailto:info@hudsonchamber.com)



April 22, 2021

Senator Gary Daniels, Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
NH State Senate  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: SBDC Funding in Department of Business and Economic Affairs Budget**

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I write today on behalf of the Greater Manchester Chamber (GMC) to share our support for fully restoring funding to the NH Small Business Development Center (SBDC) within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) budget. By way of background, the GMC represents more than 800 businesses, of all sizes and from all industry sectors, from across Southern New Hampshire.

A core element of the GMC's mission is to support and facilitate economic development through the retention, growth, and attraction of businesses in our region. This type of economic development work is multi-faceted and touches on a variety of issues and services that impact our business climate and the business community, whether its marketing and promotion, networking, professional development, workforce development, financial tools and incentives, and business coaching and training.

Successful execution of economic development work of this nature that leads to a vibrant and growing business sector requires a collaborative team of partners. SBDC is an **essential** component of NH's economic development landscape and a critical partner to the many other key agencies performing work in support of our business community, like Chambers of Commerce and economic development corporations.

While SBDC has an extensive track record of positive results over many years, there is perhaps no better example of the value of SBDC to our state than its work to support small businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. SBDC moved quickly to create a COVID business resource landing page that attracted tens of thousands of visits and served as a home for hundreds of information webinars, updates on federal loan and grant programs, and a hub for connecting with SBDC business advisors. During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Chamber was overwhelmed with questions from members seeking assistance on how to apply for federal loan and grant programs, many of whom had little to no experiences with such programs. Thanks to our strong partnership with SBDC, we were able to make dozens of direct referrals resulting in businesses accessing the resources they need to remain open and preserve jobs during a crisis.

As evident during both COVID-19 and recent years, SBDC is a great investment for NH. As you know, funding for SBDC fulfills a 1 to 1 match between local and federal funding. The \$880,000 in state funding for SBDC brings in at least an equivalent amount of federal funding. This investment in SBDC and its services has been calculated to result in an annual economic impact of more than \$160 million to the state of New Hampshire. No matter what industry or business sector one is in, this sort of return on investment qualifies as a homerun and more than deserving of continued support.

On behalf of the GMC, I urge you to include funding for SBDC in the state budget at a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. This continued investment will ensure New Hampshire's economic development partnerships remain strong and ready to support our small business community as they work to recover from the impacts of the pandemic in the months and years ahead.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Skelton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Skelton  
President & CEO  
Greater Manchester Chamber



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Mary Osborne <mjolene574@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 4:48 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Senate Budget Testimony

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and made worse New Hampshire's ongoing mental health workforce shortage. The shortage is causing longer wait times for patients to be treated, overburdened emergency room departments in our local hospitals, and burnout for community mental health workers.

It has been over a year now that we have endured the trauma and isolation of the pandemic. Sadly, for nearly as long, I have been on the waitlist for treatment from my local Community Mental Health Center. I have experienced firsthand how the workforce shortage leads to longer wait times for patients to be treated and the burnout it causes for community mental health staff. For those in need of inpatient mental health care, there are simply not enough providers. ERs across the state have become overburdened by those in need of immediate care, keeping those in crisis in ER beds for weeks to months without access to the appropriate mental health treatment.

When Granite Staters cannot access the health care they need, our entire state suffers. To build a health care workforce capable of ensuring a healthy and thriving state, critical investments are necessary to help recruit and retain behavioral health care workers who are currently unable to afford to live in our state and provide the services our communities desperately need. This is why I urge our lawmakers to expand funding for the Student Loan Repayment Program for health care professionals working in underserved areas of our state and to support adequate Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Mary Osborne, New Durham



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION



March 9, 2021

Hon. Gary Daniels, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
State House, Room 105  
107 North Main Street Concord NH 03301

Hon. Jess Edwards, Chair  
House Finance Committee, Div. III  
33 Rattlesnake Hill Road  
Auburn, NH 03032-3802

Dear Mr. Chairmen:

Together our organizations represent facility-based long-term care: Assisted living, continuing care retirement communities, county facilities, and private skilled nursing facilities – both for-profit and nonprofit. Our members have seen the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Outbreaks did not discriminate between the caliber of facilities, with the first ones occurring at a 5-star private nursing home in Manchester and an excellent nonprofit continuing care retirement community in Nashua.

Welcome state assistance occurred through federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding in the form of grants and, for Medicaid providers, workforce stipends of a limited duration. And we appreciated the state paying for testing, which would otherwise be \$100 a test, and stepping up to assist with personal protective equipment at a time when it was challenging to obtain even at exorbitant cost. *Yet, unlike most states, there has been no significant Medicaid rate increase – despite the 6.2% increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage that will last during the federal state of public health emergency.* This has exacerbated New Hampshire's severe workforce crisis and increased the net migration of New Hampshire health care workers into Massachusetts.

*No Medicaid rate increase has been proposed for the next biennium either, despite the terrible financial damage the pandemic has inflicted upon our sector. We can quantify examples:*

- Looking at the three groups of facilities providing the most nursing home care – county homes, Catholic Charities New Hampshire, and Genesis HealthCare – the average nursing care cost alone has increased approximately \$30 per resident, per day from where it was at the end of the first quarter in 2020. This extraordinary increase speaks to our statewide staffing shortage and includes utilization of staffing agencies, which have substantially raised rates, and must be relied upon given the necessity of backfilling staff when permanent staff are quarantining.
- Nursing home censuses declined from around 90% before the pandemic to 72.5% for the week ending February 14. Utilizing U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services data from 13 weeks

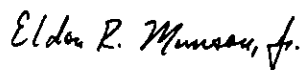
from October 2020 through December 2020, there were 520,429 reported resident days in New Hampshire nursing homes.

- If nursing care costs increased \$30 per resident, per day from 1Q20, that was a new cost burden of \$15,612,870 over the last quarter of 2020 – just for nursing care costs.
- Assisted living facilities have a Medicaid rate of only \$54.17 a day (less than a Motel 6) and we have already seen one family-owned facility that cared for Medicaid residents close due to pandemic pressures, making this great living option increasingly less available for the Medicaid population and unsustainable for providers to offer.
- Particularly for Medicaid-contracting assisted living facilities, but also for all others, we do not want to see the discontinuation of state-paid testing for staff. Risk remains in any congregate setting, and \$100 per staff member is a regular cost that many assisted living facilities cannot absorb. Many facilities survived only through Payroll Protection Program loans, now depleted.
- Liability insurance rates are soaring, and smaller providers may find it difficult to get coverage at any price.

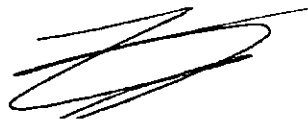
Again, it was helpful last year to use federal CARES Act “flex funds” as grants under the Healthcare System Relief Fund - Long Term Care Provider Program and extend wage stipends under the COVID-19 Long Term Care Stabilization Program. To stabilize the long-term care sector over the next few critical months it will be essential to resurrect one or both approaches using either remaining, or recaptured, CARES Act funds and/or new state assistance from the American Rescue Plan. For Medicaid providers, an idea would be to provide grants based upon resident days, as that would be the cleanest way of capturing new costs and would not require a State Plan Amendment as a substantial reconfiguration of the rate system would.

We appreciate your consideration of this request, and do not hesitate to reach out for additional information. Thank you for your public service.

Respectfully,



Eldon R. Munson, Jr.  
President  
NH Association of Residential  
Care Homes



Brendan Williams  
President  
NH Home Health Care  
Association



Wendy Piper  
President  
NH Association of  
Counties

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Paula Hurley <paulajeanhurley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 5:43 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Bob Graffy  
**Subject:** SB 130 (school voucher bill) does not belong in the State budget

Respected members of the Senate Finance Committee,

We are writing to express concern that SB 130 (the school voucher bill) is being incorporated into the state budget where it will be difficult, if not impossible, for this significant policy bill to receive proper scrutiny and consideration by our elected representatives. This bill implicates major changes to education policy and funding. Burying this bill in the state budget is a transparent effort to avoid debate and scrutiny on a matter where it is important for our elected officials to go on record with respect to whether they support or reject concerns that have been passionately expressed by our citizens. Leaving the bill in the budget dilutes the attention this bill deserves and forces legislators who object to the bill to object to the entire state budget. This matter is far too important to all the citizens of this state, and especially to the children who rely on public school education, to have it buried in a way that it will not receive proper discrete scrutiny, including an analysis by the Legislative Budget Assistant.

Please remove this bill from the budget so that it receives the scrutiny and attention our citizens deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paula J. Hurley & Robert Graffy  
11 Fiskill Farm  
Concord NH 03301

graffymanor@comcast.net

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Hackmann, William (hackmann@uidaho.edu) <hackmann@uidaho.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 18, 2021 1:11 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove Voucher Bill from the Budget

Dear Honorable State Senators,

As a concerned citizen, I respectfully ask that you remove the unpopular school voucher bill (SB130) from the Budget.

I am concerned that the bill

- Was highly unpopular when it was discussed at length by you (6 out of 7 voices against it),
- Will most likely increase my property taxes in Andover and elsewhere across the state,
- Lacks a financial analysis by the Legislative Budget Assistant,
- Will significantly undermine the state's public education system, which has yet to be funded to a level of adequacy, and
- Seeks to offer funds to give to parents for private school fees without addressing what may be larger issues in the public schools.

SB130, because of its wide-reaching implications, deserves to be given a vigorous public hearing, not buried in the Budget.

I am 83, a vet, and a citizen who wants the best for New Hampshire.

Respectfully,

Kent

Kent Hackmann  
1273 Franklin Highway  
Andover, NH 03216-4161  
(603) 934-3225

## Debra Martone

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**From:** McGuire, Hollis <Hollis.McGuire@unh.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 10:18 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels  
**Cc:** John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Thank you - NH SBDC

April 19, 2021

Dear Gary,

I am writing you today to thank you for your many years of tireless service for the citizens of New Hampshire, to give you an update on my work at the NH Small Business Development Center, and to ask for your support for level funding.

Several years ago now, you made it possible for chronic Lyme sufferers to get the help they needed to recover fully by leading the charge on medically prescribed long term antibiotic therapy. My Lyme literate doctor was able to prescribe what I needed to recover, in large part thanks to your work. I was one of the many people who spoke at the hearing on this bill.

I was also the founder and owner of a Milford based business, McGuire & Stebbins, CPAs. After selling the business to a Manchester based firm, I took a 50% cut in pay to work for the NH SBDC.

Many of the professionals at the NH SBDC follow a similar path, as the desire to be of service comes at a price. The work is important, permitting the smallest businesses with little financial resources access to high level business advice.

The State of New Hampshire is the direct beneficiary of the success of our work. My coworkers and I set high goals to make our client companies "wildly successful" which translates into more NH jobs and more NH tax revenue.

My stats were run by the central office, and this is the impact I have generated since joining the SBDC in 2004.

- Clients Assisted: 957
- Sessions: 7,083
- Total Advising Hours: 11,915
- Business Starts: 89
- Jobs Created: 881
- Jobs Retained/Saved: 295
- Total Capital Infusion: \$120.26 million
- Client Sales Increase: \$123.58 million
- Employees Supported: 5,724
- Client Annual Sales: \$642.2 million

When looked at across the state over multiple advisors our collective impact is much larger, and it continues every year.

Currently we are facing a significant funding cut, from level funding of \$440k a year to the \$225k in the House budget. This will translate to a direct loss in impact, jobs created and tax revenue in the coming years. We stand to lose federal SBA funding if we can't match \$1.5 million over the biennium with a 50% cash match. The consequences of decreasing SBDC's services in this not-yet-aftermath of the pandemic would be detrimental to NH's small businesses.

Thank you for considering a return to at least flat level funding for the NH SBDC budget.

*Hollis*

Hollis McGuire CPA, MBA  
Master Business Advisor  
NH Small Business Development Center  
[hollis.mcguire@unh.edu](mailto:hollis.mcguire@unh.edu)  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/hollismcguire/>



*NH SBDC is honored to be named the Business Assistance Organization of the Decade by Business NH Magazine. Visit SBDC's [COVID-19 Assistance website](#) for updates and SBDC's webinar schedule.*

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Lindsay Rinaldi <lindsay.rinaldi@nashuacms.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 11:28 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Please restore SBDC state funding for FY2022 and 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

The SBDC has played a vital role in helping the Nashua Community Music School, a 35 year old nonprofit organization, navigate through the pandemic. Our advisor, Chuck Gilboy, has spent significant time advising me through the gamut of relief options and has been an integral part of why we are still open today. My interactions with him and other SBDC advisors (such as Hollis McGuire in Nashua city meetings) have been extremely beneficial and I will surely continue to receive advice from them in the post pandemic world. SBDC advisors show genuine care and compassion alongside a wealth of knowledge and clear direction. I believe it is rare to find this combination in one resource. I strongly oppose any decision to cut funding, *especially now*, to this indispensable resource for NH organizations.

Thank you,

**Lindsay Rinaldi**  
**Executive Director**  
**Nashua Community Music School**  
5 Pine Street Extension  
Nashua, NH 03060  
Phone: 603-881-7030  
[www.nashuacms.org](http://www.nashuacms.org)



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Marie Straiton <m.straiton@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 2:12 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Voucher Bill hidden in Budget

The majority of NH residents do not want money deemed for public education to be shared in a voucher program for religious schools and home schoolers. Public education is underfunded as it stands now and property tax owners take the brunt. Taking more money away from public education will only raise our property taxes more. This is a very unpopular and it is even more shameful that the GOP is trying to hide to vouchers in the Budget. Do not allow the voucher bill to roll into the budget.

Sincerely,  
Marie Straiton

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Pam Mueller <pammueler30@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 4:23 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SB 130

Dear friends,

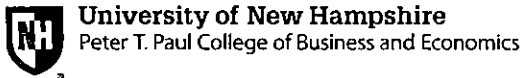
I am writing as a concerned NH voter to ask you to rethink the way you have been dealing with SB 130, the school voucher bill. By tabling it with the clear possibility of rolling it into the budget, you seem to be avoiding the in-depth financial analysis a bill of this magnitude deserves. Since this a bill which will significantly change the educational landscape in NH, it deserves the public scrutiny that such bills have traditionally been given in our state. We in NH have always prided ourselves on the transparency our legislature affords concerned citizens. Why are you avoiding giving such attention to SB130?

Pam Mueller,  
Durham NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Merrill-Sands, Deborah <Deborah.Merrill-Sands@unh.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 5:57 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** NH SBDC  
**Subject:** NH SBDC | Letter for the Senate Finance Committee  
**Attachments:** Documentation of State funding to NH SBDC and expenditures.pdf



Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to you as the Dean of UNH's Paul College of Business and Economics – the host organization for the NH Small Business Development Center ( NH SBDC), as the Chair of the NH SBDC Advisory Board, and as a New Hampshire citizen.

I write to respectfully request that the Senate Finance Committee reinstate the funding for the NH SBDC at current levels of \$440,000 per year. The Governor's budget proposal drastically cut SBDC funding from \$440,000 in annual funding to \$50,000 in 2022 and \$0 in 2023. Since the original proposal, he publicly asked that the House Division 1 Committee consider reinstating funding for SBDC as revenues for NH were better than projected. The House subsequently proposed \$225,000 per year in their budget, an amount that they considered responsible given the amount of state revenue documented at the time. Now that the revenue picture is clearer and more positive, ***I am respectfully requesting that the Senate Finance Committee recommend restoring the SBDC's funding in the state budget to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023.*** These resources are critical to the functioning of the NH SBDC as a vital source of advice and support for small businesses throughout the state, but it is also critical for meeting the 50% cash match required to draw down \$756,000 in annual funding provided by the Small Business Administration (SBA).

As the Dean of UNH Paul College who oversees NH SBDC and as Chair of the Advisory Board, I am very familiar with the operations of the SBDC and its impact on the NH economy. It is a very well run and efficient operation with a highly committed staff. The team at the SBDC stepped up in a remarkable way to help over 7100 NH small businesses in 2020 as they struggled to navigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and secure financial support through the PPP and other programs. For many NH small businesses, the SBDC's free individual advising, training, and regular information updates have been a lifeline as they have sought to adapt to the challenges of a new COVID-19 world. Even during the pandemic, NH SBDC helped these businesses to access \$45 million in new capital, increase their sales by close to \$10 million, and create or retain 1300 jobs. The estimated annual economic impact of SBDC's work is \$166 million. In my view, as our economy remains fragile, this is absolutely not the time to cut funding to this vital resource for NH small businesses. They will need continuing advice and support as they seek to rebuild as the pandemic recedes.

I hope that you will seriously consider this request as well as those from the many SBDC clients, Chambers of Commerce, mayors and concerned citizens that have been submitted for your consideration. The SBDC has served New Hampshire extremely well for 37 years. The need for State support is needed now more than ever. As we all know, small businesses drive the NH economy and we need them to thrive.

Finally, I want to respectfully clarify some misunderstandings that have circulated about the amount of the award made by the State in the current biennium and the amount of state funding that the SBDC has used. The misunderstanding results, as I understand it, from a data error in the original budget. We brought this error to the attention of the

Legislative Budget Assistant's Office, but they responded that they were unable to change it. I attach documentation which shows that the State, through the BEA, awarded the NH SBDC \$440,000 per year for the previous and current fiscal year. I also attach a document showing the total amount that the NH SBDC has invoiced the State against this award. They are budgeted to spend the entire \$880,000 by June 30, 2021. The numbers are certified by UNH's Senior Director of Research and Sponsored Programs, Louise Griffith, in the attached letter. I am sharing this documentation with Commissioner Caswell as well since he will be testifying before your committee later this week.

A related question that has been raised is whether \$125,000 of the total \$440,000 per year was one time funding. With the state's total funding commitment, NH SBDC has supported thousands of entrepreneurs during one of the New Hampshire's most challenging periods. This smart investment made two years ago, positioned SBDC well because it had started building a stronger team and was able to more quickly respond to business needs at the start of the pandemic. SBDC expanded advising capabilities, created new eLearning opportunities, and other programs. Moving forward, the Senate has the opportunity to continue investing in a program and a team that has demonstrated a deep commitment to strengthening small businesses in NH and has a proven track record of success.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Merrill-Sands".

Deborah Merrill-Sands, Ph.D.  
Dean  
Paul College of Business and Economics  
University of New Hampshire  
603-862-1983  
[LinkedIn](#); [Instagram](#)

Personal Address: 2 Foss Farm Rd., Durham, NH 03824

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Gary S. Lindner, D.M.D., D.M.Sc. <gary\_lindner@lindnerdental.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 6:49 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Funding for NHSBDC for 2022 and 2023

To the Finance Committee,  
Dear Committee Members,

I am Gary Lindner of Lindner Dental Associates in Bedford, NH, a 35 year old multi specialty dental practice with approximately 80 employees.

During this past year of the pandemic, like many NH businesses, our practice experienced the existential threat of being closed to patients (except for emergencies) resulting in dramatic revenue reductions while maintaining substantial overhead expenses. Frankly, the early 2020 prospects were dire. We could not have sustained our practice over a lengthy period of time without the help we received from NH grants and the PPP loan. Without the help of our NHSBDC advisor, we submitted an application for a PPP loan but the bank failed to effectively compete by promptly forwarding our application in the first tranche.

At the advice of Senator Shaheen's office, we obtained the help of Hollis McGuire, a skilled NHSBDC advisor who has advised us on myriad issues to enable success in the successful second round submission in 2020, advised us on helpful banks and helped us to navigate opportunities for NH grants. She continues as an essential part of our team as PPP 2 has come on line and other opportunities such as ERTC become available. As a small business, we could not possibly avail ourselves of the opportunities available without the guidance she has provided.

Please continue to fund NHSBDC, an indispensable resource, at its current level of \$440,000 in 2022 and 2023 as we persist and strive to prosper in these difficult times.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Lindner, DMD, DMSc  
Lindner Dental Associates, P.C.  
72 South River Road  
Bedford, NH 03110  
(O) 603.624.3900  
(C) 603.785.7238

Mary E. Collins  
PO Box 2263  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894  
[marycollins22@gmail.com](mailto:marycollins22@gmail.com)

Senate Finance Committee  
c/o Senator Gary Daniels, Chair  
State House Room 105  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: NH SBDC Funding

Dear Chairman Daniels:

I am writing today in support of the NH Small Business Development Center, (SBDC), and respectfully request that you restore funding to the current level of \$440,000 per year for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. This amount will allow the program to meet the federal match required to draw down the funds allocated by Congress for New Hampshire's SBDC program.

**SBDC and the NH economy:**

As a former SBDC State Director for more than 18 years and now President of the Wentworth Economic Development Board (WEDCO) I urge you to consider the immediate and individual support that NH's small businesses require, especially now, in the midst of a global pandemic. SBDC assistance has always been available during critical moments in our state's history. The program is systemic as SBDC works with multiple partner organizations throughout NH, however the SBDC's role is extremely unique – i.e. SBDC provides confidential, individual business assistance through its highly trained staff of accredited advisors. Entrepreneurs are referred to SBDC through numerous networks including Banks, Law Firms, CPAs, Chambers, Town Officials and Economic Development Corporations statewide.

In the last nine months, SBDC business advisors worked with 76 businesses in communities that WEDCO serves in Southern Carrol County and Northern Strafford Counties– this assistance was a critical requirement for these businesses to be able to access financing through our revolving loan funds resulting in a total investment of \$700,500 to this region of the state. Also, in this same nine-month time frame, businesses in eight of WEDCO's 11 service communities were recipients of \$20.5 thousand dollars in technical assistance grants -all due to SBDC business advising!

The SBDC is a national program with centers in all 50 states as well as the US territories. The New Hampshire program is a cooperative agreement between the US SBA, The State of NH and the University of NH. The federal funds require a match of 1:1 and the federal statute requires that the host of the program be an institution of higher learning. This guarantees that small businesses have access to the many resources of higher education including staff, research, laboratories, student teams and more.

Examples of SBDC business assistance are numerous and include a wide spectrum of industries from software developers, innovative and small manufacturers, design and tech companies, tourism related businesses such as inns and water parks, restaurants, auto repair, woodworking shops, coffee roasters, book shops and many more – all the fabric of life here in New Hampshire.

**SBDC: A few historic examples:**

- SBDC business advising and special programs were hands-on in the early 1990s when large companies downsized and laid off hundreds who wanted to stay, live and work in NH. These entrepreneurs utilized SBDC services resulting in numerous early stage companies that grew, added jobs and contributed to our state's economy.
- SBDC business advisors worked with public and private sector partners after the paper mills closed to assist North Country businesses.
- SBDC business advisors assisted small businesses after the 2005 floods in Alstead - stepping in to identify gap financing and teaching folks how to get their financials on-line versus paper documents lost in the floods.
- SBDC assistance was critical after 9/11 when many small businesses had to re-direct their products and markets. Examples included helping a software developer with a product targeting the travel industry find a new market producing software for children's books. With travel numbers down, SBDC advisors worked with food companies that serviced the airline industry to identify new markets.
- SBDC business advising was critical to small firms impacted by the 2008 tornado in NH.
- Pandemic 2020: SBDC supported more than 7,000 businesses in 214 NH communities through direct business advising and training. Since April 2020 SBDC offered 220 webinars. And in 2020 the SBDC helped create and retain 1,300 jobs!

**History:**

The SBDC has been in NH since 1984 when then Governor John H. Sununu saw the program as an investment in the state's economy and allocated state funds to match the federal dollars needed to bring the SBDC program into New Hampshire and support our small businesses. Today, 36 years later, the SBDC's business advising and educational programs are more critical than ever. Please consider my request for restoration of the SBDC's funding, a line item within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) budget. Businesses throughout New Hampshire depend on assistance from this vital resource!

Should you have additional questions I can be reached at 603.493.3723.

Respectfully,

*Mary E. Collins*

Mary E. Collins

Former SBDC State Director 1997-2015

President, Wentworth Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO) Board, Current

April 12, 2021

**State Director**

MARIAN McCORD  
University of New Hampshire

**NH Research and Industry Council**

*Chair*  
KEVIN CARROLL  
Grossman, Tucker, Perreault, & Pflieger, PLLC

*Vice Chair*  
LIZ GRAY  
NH Small Business Development Center

MICHAEL BEHRMANN  
NH Business Finance Authority

BRIAN BICKNELL  
Manchester Community College

SR. PAULA MARIE BULEY  
Rivier University

LEN CHALOUX  
Moore Nanotechnology Systems (retired)

CINDY CONDE  
NH Tech Alliance

DAVID CUZZI  
Prospect Hill Strategies

ERIC FELDBORG  
NH Learning Initiative

CYNDEE GRUDEN  
University of New Hampshire

PAM HALL  
Normandeau Associates, Inc.

AIMEE HODGE  
Lycophilization Services of New England

JAY HOYING  
Advanced Solutions Life Sciences

SEN. JAY KAHN  
NH Senate

TERRANCE LARGE  
Eversource Energy (retired)

DEAN MADDEN  
Dartmouth College

JEFF McIVER  
Consolidated Communications

DAVE PEASE  
NH Department of Business & Economic Affairs

JUSTIN SLATTERY  
Belknap Cty. Economic Development Council

LISA THORNE  
University System of New Hampshire

ALEXANDER TITUS  
Bioeconomy.XYZ

Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee  
State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
(via email)

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of the NH Research and Industry Council, I am writing to respectfully request the restoration of funding for the NH Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in the budget of the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs for fiscal years 2022 and 2023, and the restoration of \$275,000 per year in the NH BEA budget for the same period for the NH Innovation Research Center (NHIRC).

The NH Research and Industry Council advocates for advancing our state's competitiveness in science and engineering by strategically investing in research infrastructure, promoting education in the STEM disciplines, and fostering partnerships with technology-based businesses that enhance job creation and economic development. Both the SBDC and the NHIRC have proven track records in fostering those partnerships and contributing to economic development.

Companies with fewer than 500 employees comprise 99% of the businesses in New Hampshire. Many are startups or family enterprises, starting with minimal resources. As their founders strive to become successful, they turn to the state's leading source of certified business advisors, the SBDC. For an annual contribution of \$440,000 in state funds, the annual value of the SBDC's assistance to these small companies – and the people they employ – exceeds \$166 million. That's a remarkable return on investment!

The NH Innovation Research Center provides direct support for early proof-of-concept funding for promising ideas, leading to the development





Advancing Research  
for a Better New Hampshire

of new technologies. Since its founding in 1991, the NHIRC's economic impacts are estimated at approximately \$1 billion including follow-on funding and jobs.

The state's continued support of the SBDC and the NHIRC is essential to foster the success of our entrepreneurs and hard-working small-business owners who truly are the backbone of the state's economy. We respectfully request full restoration of funding for both organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Carroll", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Carroll, Chair

**J. Michael Hickey  
363 Cushing Road  
Newmarket, NH 03857-1736  
Mobile: 202 236 1361**

April 19, 2021

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

This is written to respectfully request that the State of New Hampshire's \$440,000 per year investment in the NH Small Business Development Center be restored to the state budget.

My name is Mike Hickey of Newmarket, New Hampshire. I grew up in Goffstown, graduating from Goffstown High School and then the University of New Hampshire. During my career, I was fortunate to hold a range of positions in non-profit, government and business sectors: serving as Regional Economic Development Coordinator for the North Country Council (working with communities in Coos and Northern Carroll and Grafton Counties); Executive Director of the Mt. Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce; Director, New Hampshire Division of Economic Development (under former Governor John H. Sununu); and later, as State President, Verizon New Hampshire and Interim Dean, UNH Manchester. I'm a founding board member of Bedford-based Primary Bank – an organization that has repeatedly received recognition for its work with small business. I now serve on the Dean's Advisory Board of the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics at UNH.

I'm of the belief that the State of New Hampshire's most important role in spurring economic development is to partner in creative and measureable ways to create jobs. Granted, \$440,000 per year is a significant commitment. But, when used to leverage significant Federal, local and in-kind resources, its impact has been truly impressive. For instance, the NH Small Business Development Center provided support to over 7,000 New Hampshire businesses in 2020 by directly advising and training owners of small businesses and start-ups. These businesses were situated in 214 New Hampshire communities statewide. They incubated jobs, payroll, and livelihoods for New Hampshire residents.

In 2020, SBDC's estimated economic impact in New Hampshire was \$166 million. And, even during the stressful months of the pandemic, SBDC helped its clients: 1) gain access to over \$44 million in new capital; 2) increase their sales by close to \$10 million; and, 3) create and retain 1,300 Jobs. It should be noted that nationally, after 5 years, 80% of SBDC-counseled businesses are still in business. This contrasts with the 44% survival rate of non-assisted businesses. (Source: Dr. James Chrisman, ASBDC economist.)

Business success and job growth in New Hampshire leverages revenue for essential state government services. I respectfully ask for your consideration and support for restoring this \$440,000 per year investment. Its impact on the State of New Hampshire, New Hampshire residents and the communities in which they live - is considerable. Please contact me by email, text or cell phone if I can address any questions that you may have. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Best regards,  
J. Michael Hickey

April 19, 2021

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of a business owner and resident of New Hampshire. Small business is the fabric within our state's economy; it is the powerhouse that drives the passion, commitment, and dedication for our future success.

New Hampshire is one place where people want to live, work, and raise their families and its programs like SBDC that make it possible. It helps grow our economy, attracts families, and drives new job opportunities for younger demographics.

Many small businesses have received support and guidance from SBDC, which is a provider of confidential, highly organized, and effective advising and support. I would like to express my concern regarding the significant cuts that the Governor presented in his budget address, reducing NH SBDC's funding from \$440,000/year to \$50,000 in FY 2022 and \$0 in FY 2023. This action also jeopardizes federal SBA funding.

Over the past two years, the State provided \$440K annually in funding. This contribution is critical to accessing the annual SBA funding of \$770K which requires a 1:1 match of which 50% has to be a cash match (hence the importance of the State funding).

As a New Hampshire women-owned business of two entities, and former SBA NH Small Business Award winner, I am respectfully requesting that we restore our funding in the state budget to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 617-869-1668.

Sincerely,



Linda Fanaras  
CEO, Millennium Agency  
Eclatant Botanicals

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Joe Bellavance <joe.bellavance@bellavancebev.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 8:26 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NH Liquor Commission Enforcement Div

Dear Senator Daniels: I understand there is renewed consideration of moving the responsibilities of the Enforcement Division of the NH Liquor Commission into the Dept of Safety. While I support efficient government, as a licensed Wholesale Beer Distributor, I believe there is important value delivered by Liquor Enforcement as it is currently structured, value that would be lost if their duties are transferred to the State Police or local law enforcement agencies.

Alcohol is a unique product, and as such it is subject to a robust regulatory structure of both State and Federal laws. I believe the learning curve would be steep for new officers asked to enforce compliance with these regulations, let alone educating licensees on the regulations. The education aspect is often overlooked but results a safer and more responsible industry. Given the many other existing responsibilities of law enforcement it is hard to envision that liquor compliance and training would be able to receive sufficient attention under this scenario. Add to this list underage compliance checks for alcohol and tobacco purchases and trade practice monitoring and you can start to see the challenges of this approach.

I'm not questioning the commitment and capabilities of our Troopers and local police officers; I'm just concerned this move might put too much on their plates and create unrealistic expectations for the support and enforcement of NH's liquor regulations.

Sincerely,

-- Joe Bellavance

Joe Bellavance  
Bellavance Beverage Co.  
46 Pettengill Rd.  
Londonderry, NH 03053  
Cell (603) 860-7969

"Serving You Since 1902"



# National Liquor Law Enforcement Association

# NLLEEA

May 3, 2021

John Yeomans  
President  
*Delaware*

Todd Merlina  
Vice President  
*Pennsylvania*

Thomas Kirby  
Secretary/Treasurer  
*Virginia*

Israel Morrow  
Sergeant at Arms  
*North Carolina*

Greg Croft  
Immediate Past President  
*Ohio*

Carrie A. Christofes  
*Executive Director*

1540 Oakland Avenue #306  
Indiana, PA 15701

Phone (724) 762-5939  
[www.nllea.org](http://www.nllea.org)

[carrie.christofes@nllea.org](mailto:carrie.christofes@nllea.org)

Mark C. Armaganian, Director  
New Hampshire Liquor Control Commission  
Division of Enforcement and Licensing

Dear Director Armaganian,

The New Hampshire Liquor Control Commission Division of Enforcement has been a long-time member of the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA) and we were disheartened to hear of the possible elimination of 20 enforcement officers as proposed in the New Hampshire House budget.

The NLLEA is a nonprofit membership-based association with more than 1,200 members. Membership represents federal, state and local law enforcement agencies from more than 40 states, the District of Columbia, and two Canadian provinces. The NLLEA is governed by a member elected Executive Board. Part of the mission of the NLLEA is to improve the standards of liquor law enforcement and foster an environment of collaboration between law enforcement agencies. One way the NLLEA strives to do this is by providing best practice recommendations and guidance on alcohol policies, procedures and protocols. The NLLEA advocates for strong regulation of alcohol and the best way to do this is through fully sworn liquor control officers that have the proper training, knowledge and expertise to control the unique enforcement of alcohol both criminally and administratively.

As the alcohol beverage marketplace changes rapidly with the deregulation of alcohol control policies, the dismantling of the three-tier system, increased licensing in non-traditional retail settings and expanded distribution channels through direct shipment and home deliveries of alcohol, comes increased responsibilities for Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) and alcohol regulatory authorities to maintain compliance and an orderly and safe alcohol marketplace to protect the public's health and safety from alcohol-related harms.

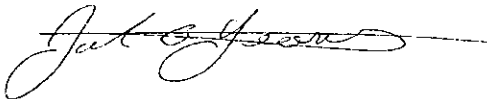
The NLLEA fears that the dismantling of the New Hampshire Liquor Control Commission Division of Enforcement will result in increased public health and safety implications associated with increases in alcohol consumption, including violence, robberies, assaults, child abuse, intimate partner violence, alcohol attributable hospital admissions and impaired and risky driving.

As states debate these policy changes, it's paramount to also discuss the capacity of ALE to keep up with the ever-changing alcohol marketplace when resources are already over-burdened and limited. In February 2021 New Hampshire reported 5,614 total entities licensed to sell alcohol with 20 ALE agents to monitor these licensees, this equates to approximately 1 agent per 280 licensees. Local/conventional agencies are already over-burdened and giving them the added responsibility of alcohol enforcement will only exacerbate this through lack of personnel, training and expertise. Maintaining a fair and balanced alcohol marketplace requires regular and proactive monitoring of the licensee community. Without adequate ALE capacity, reactive efforts are often the only feasible option and little consideration has been given to enforcement capacity by states discussing these alcohol policy changes.

The NLLEA actively collaborates with other national law enforcement organizations and with state and local law enforcement organizations to enhance understanding of the overall importance of liquor law enforcement in preventing crime and community problems. In addition, the NLLEA fosters a cooperative and mutually beneficial working relationship with alcohol research and public health organizations and with responsible members of the liquor industry.

It is our hope that the proposed budget will be rescinded and the New Hampshire Liquor Control Commission Division of Enforcement will remain fully intact to mitigate the harms associated with illegal alcohol consumption and monitor compliance. In this era of strained budgets and anti-regulatory sentiment, states must be ever more vigilant to keep up with the dramatic growth in alcohol sales. It is imperative that states be mindful of the true consequences of reduced alcohol control and enforcement to maintain the fair and balanced distribution of alcohol and avoid slipping into the difficult situations that deregulation has caused in other countries. The revenue is there to continue support for a comprehensive regulatory and enforcement system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Yeomans", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Yeomans, President

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Chris Brown <[cbrown@nhdist.com](mailto:cbrown@nhdist.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 9:28 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** New Hampshire Liquor Enforcement

Dear Senator Daniels

I understand that there has been a renewed discussion about the potential transition or elimination of the Enforcement Division of The New Hampshire State Liquor Commission. I understand that these questions have stemmed from past audits done on the commission. As a Wholesale Beer Distributor that has been in business in the state for 75 years I know the enforcement arm of the state liquor commission as the entity that regulates and enforces the Liquor and laws in New Hampshire. They also play a role in the regulation and education around the lawful sale of tobacco product in the state. While I support efficient government, as a licensed Wholesale Beer Distributor, I believe there is important value delivered by Liquor Enforcement as it is currently structured, value that would be lost if their duties are transferred to the State Police or local law enforcement agencies.

I would also like acknowledge the willingness of the current leadership of enforcement to implement significant change. Under Commissioner Armaganian's first term he has worked tirelessly to change the mindset of enforcement and street level investigators to work with retail licensees. There has been a tremendous effort to use potential violations as "teachable moments" vs. "I caught you". This training has promoted a much more productive relationship with the licensed establishments. The education aspect is often overlooked but results a safer and more responsible industry. Given the many other existing responsibilities of law enforcement it is hard to envision that liquor and tobacco compliance and training would be able to receive sufficient attention under this scenario.

I truly hope that the positive steps the Liquor Commission has made in recent years does not go unrecognized. I also feel strongly that moving liquor enforcement to another law agency would not produce the results expect.

Thank you for your time on this matter



Christopher A. Brown  
President & CEO  
New Hampshire Distributors, LLC  
65 Regional Drive  
Concord NH, 03301  
[cbrown@nhdist.com](mailto:cbrown@nhdist.com)  
603-410-1824  
603-235-3101 cell



# New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police

One Municipal Drive, Derry, NH 03038  
[www.nhchiefsopolice.com](http://www.nhchiefsopolice.com)

April 19, 2021

The Honorable Gary Daniels, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Restore Funding for Division of Liquor Enforcement Positions

Dear Senator Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As the current President of the NH Association of Chiefs of Police (hereinafter Association), I respectfully urge the Senate Finance Committee, on behalf of the entire Association, to restore funding to the Division of Liquor Enforcement that has been eliminated under HB 2. Not doing so will have a detrimental effect on local police agencies who, due to limited already limited staffing and heavy caseloads, are ill equipped to absorb unfunded Liquor Enforcement duties and responsibilities as required by statute.

The elimination of funding for the Division of Liquor Enforcement (DLE) would abolish 20 full-time and five part-time sworn positions, reducing their staffing from 41 to 14 civilian employees with no enforcement powers. Additionally, it would replace their current 20 full-time sworn Liquor Investigator positions with one civilian Liquor License Specialist (LLS). This becomes problematic when, according to the statute, the LLS will "investigate any and all matters arising and shall make complaints for violations of laws under Title 13" with absolutely no enforcement authority. Therefore, when liquor violations are identified by the LLS they will be reported to local police agencies in the jurisdictions they are found and those local agencies will be responsible for criminal prosecutions. As is currently written in statute liquor law violations must be investigated, as there is no discretion. Many police agencies employ sworn officer Prosecutors or retain the services of a Board certified attorney for all prosecutorial matters.

The proposed amendment REQUIRES the prosecution of all liquor laws to be facilitated by county or city attorneys, by sheriffs or their deputies, or by police officials in respective cities and towns. For Gilford alone this is not feasible as we have one agency Prosecutor who would have to add ALL liquor violations, currently being handled by Liquor Enforcement, to his already overburdened caseload.

Title 13 liquor laws include approximately 120 separate RSAs, 70 liquor-related definitions, and approximately 50 different types of liquor licenses available with each license having different enforcement requirements.

Fatality and over service-related criminal investigations will require that multiple jurisdictions (as individuals travel between communities) conduct their own independent investigation. For example, say a fatal motor vehicle crash occurs in Goffstown but the operator had been consuming alcohol in Manchester, Salem, and Auburn prior to crashing in Goffstown. As a result, each police agency covering all four municipalities are required to conduct separate investigations and to then prosecute responsible establishments and licensed premise. Any violation of Title 13 by a licensee is considered a felony. Currently, Liquor Enforcement has statewide jurisdiction and would take such a case for full investigation and prosecution.



April 22, 2020

Page Two

HB 2 has removed the DLE fully from the prosecution process of all liquor laws. Therefore, there is no Administrative process whereby they can hold any licensee accountable for violations, which means they will have no regulatory control over licensees. Additionally, there will be no process by which the DLE can suspend, revoke, or fine licensees as ALL prosecution must be done by local communities.

To put this into perspective, between 2019 and 2020 the DLE handled 32,161 calls for service, conducted 1,277 criminal/administrative liquor law violation investigations, and effectuated 583 arrests in conjunction with those investigations. If funding to the DLE is not restored, this entire workload will all be shifted to local police departments with no additional funding; they will be expected to just absorb it.

The Association is aware of legislators referencing a recently conducted Liquor Commission performance audit on the period covering FY2018-2019, which was not complimentary to the DLE and may be the catalyst for the proposal to lay off 25 full-time and five part-time sworn DLE employees. Having done some further research on this, I have learned that

- The audit in questions began two months after current DLE Chief Mark Armaganian took office (as it had been planned to occur while his predecessor was in office).
- At least 80% of the nearly 300 findings have been either corrected or substantially completed.
- The audit, itself, states that the current DLE management is NOT responsible for outlined audit shortfalls.

In Gilford, there are 14 on-sale (i.e., bars, restaurants, etc.) and 11 off-sale (i.e., liquor store, convenience store, supermarket, etc.) licensee locations that would all require checking by Gilford Police should DLE sworn personnel be eliminated. Additionally, they also assist Gilford PD tremendously at the Bank of NH Pavilion outdoor concert venue by conducting compliance checks and handling underage fraudulent identifications.

The Association understands that these are very challenging times for everyone across NH to pass balanced budgets; however, funding for the DLE is essential so that they can continue to enforce liquor law violations they, themselves, are well versed in as opposed to local police officers who enforce motor vehicle and criminal laws. For these reasons, the Association strongly urge the Senate Finance Committee to restore funding to the DLE.

Respectfully,

*Anthony J. Bean Burpee*

Anthony J. Bean Burpee  
Police Chief, Town of Gilford  
President, NH Association of Chiefs of Police



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110 Stark Street, Manchester, NH 03101-1977  
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e: [advocacy@grocers.org](mailto:advocacy@grocers.org)  
w: [www.grocers.org](http://www.grocers.org)

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Senator Gary Daniels, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
107 North Main Street  
Concord NH, 03301

Dear Senator Daniels,

We are reaching out and writing to you today to express our concerns with sections 314-327 of House Bill 2. This section would remove the Enforcement Division of the New Hampshire liquor Commission and replace it with the Division of Education and Licensing. We are incredibly concerned about the unintended consequences that this could have. The Enforcement Division plays a large role in ensuring that all liquor license holders are following the safety guidelines set by the state. Our association represents majority of the off-premise license holders in New Hampshire and we feel that the services offered by the Enforcement Division of the NH Liquor Commission are important to our retailers and to their communities.

The expansion of liquor license types continues to grow more complex. It is more important than ever to have a dedicated team of officers that specialize in the liquor laws working to keep the sale and distribution of alcoholic products safe and secure. Shifting these duties and costs to our State and Municipal Police Agencies would stretch their already thin resources, leaving the possibility for unintended compliance issues including disconnected and uneven enforcement and interpretation of the state's liquor laws.

We completely understand the desire to make interactions between license holders and state agencies educational. Compliance with the law through education before penalties is important to us and to the retailers we represent. But the authority currently provided to the enforcement officers allows them to efficiently carry out their duties without having to draw down other state and municipal resources.

It's for these reasons we would respectfully ask that the Senate Finance Committee remove sections 314-327 from House Bill 2.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or requests for further information.

Thank You

John M. Dumais, President & CEO  
NH Grocers Association

*New Hampshire Grocers Association (NHGA) is a trade association with a membership of almost 800 members consisting of independent grocers and chain stores operating convenience stores, grocery stores and supermarkets; as well as their suppliers. NHGA is dedicated to serving its membership through government relations advocacy, communication and educational programs. The Association functions as the official clearinghouse on all retail food related information within the state of New Hampshire*



## State of New Hampshire Department of Safety

Robert L. Quinn, Commissioner

Richard C. Bailey, Jr., Assistant Commissioner

Eddie Edwards, Assistant Commissioner

Office of Highway Safety

John A. Clegg, Program Manager



April 23, 2021

Dear Chairman Mollica,

As you know sir, for many years, the Office of Highway Safety has enjoyed working in partnership with the New Hampshire Liquor Commission Division of Enforcement towards our mission to save lives on New Hampshire roads. During this time the NH Liquor Commission has been in an integral part in conducting highway safety projects (i.e. the Drug Recognition Expert program, Preliminary Breath Test Devise program, Last Drink program, etc.) for the Office of Highway Safety as countermeasures to help address the problem of impaired driving and the impairment related crashes and resulting injuries and or fatalities (of the 101 fatalities in 2019, 65.3% were impairment related) that occur each year on New Hampshire roads. Please know, that it has been a pleasure to work with Liquor Commission staff who have always demonstrated the utmost integrity and professionalism as we have worked together towards our common mission to make NH roads safer for all. Over the 20 +years of receiving grant funds from the Office of Highway Safety, the NH Liquor Commission has never been in violation of any grant requirements (State or Federal) or have been found to have used highway safety funds in any inappropriate manner. In closing, the Office of Highway Safety values our partnership with the NH Liquor Commission and is grateful for the work that you and your staff have done over the years to improve highway safety on NH roads. We look forward to working with you and your staff on all future highway safety endeavors. Thanks for all you do!

*Best Regards,*

*John*



#GetHomeSafely  
#CrashNotAccident

John Clegg  
Program Manager  
New Hampshire Department of Safety  
33 Hazen Drive Room 208  
Concord, NH 03305  
Office: 603-271-2131  
Direct: 603-271-2893  
Email: [john.clegg@dos.nh.gov](mailto:john.clegg@dos.nh.gov)

Office: 33 Hazen Drive Room 208, Concord, N.H.  
Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H. 03305  
603-271-2131, 1-800-852-3792  
State of New Hampshire TDD Access: Relay 1-800-735-2964

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Davis, Dwight E. <dwrightdavis@seniorhelpers.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 9:54 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Lionel Loveless; Lisa Carter Knight; Gail Somers (gailsomers@icloud.com); Latonya Wallace; James T. McKim, Jr.; Jacquelyne Weatherspoon; Melanie Levesque; Joede Brown; Ashley Iwanicki; Sharon Harris (sharris@partnered-success.com); Jermaine Moore; JerriAnne Boggis; Robert Thompson; Davis, Dwight E.  
**Subject:** NHMBOC Support the Funding of the SBDC

Honorable Chairman Daniels:

The New Hampshire Minority Business Owners Coalition is a new group of business owners that has come together to represent the interests of minority business owners in NH. Our interests are to support this growing group of businesses and encourage further growth and development of these businesses in our great state. We look forward to not only growing our numbers, but to contributing in many ways, and in particular to the state's revenue base as we prosper.

A number of our businesses have benefitted significantly from the technical assistance and general support that the NH Small Business Development Center has provided over the years. Because of the SBDC's successes we feel that the legislature should consider increasing funding to better serve this previously underfunded and unrecognized community in our great state. More importantly, we see them as an integral part of our ability to grow and prosper as a group of businesses in the years to come.

We urge you and your fellow Senators to, at the very least, restore the vitally important funding to this tremendously impactful organization to the many New Hampshire small businesses. Please consider restoring their funding to FY20/21 levels at \$440,000 per year so they can continue with their excellent work of supporting our small businesses post pandemic.

Sincerely, New Hampshire Minority Business Coalition Members:

Dwight Davis, Senior Helpers  
Sharon Harris, Partnered Success  
James T. McKim, Jr., Organizational Igniter  
Lisa Carter, Drinkwater Marketing  
Latonya Wallace, Bangor Savings Bank  
Jermaine Moore, The Marshill Group  
Laquincy Loveless, Route 1 Antics  
Melanie Levesque, TCS of America Enterprises, LLC  
Joede Brown, Black Pearl Creations  
Jacquelyn Weatherspoon, NHDP AAC  
Gail Somers, Yahso Jamaican Grille  
Ashley Iwanicki, The Collective Studios

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Dan CALLAHAN <dan\_callahan@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:10 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; bob.guida@leg.state.nh.us; Cindy Rosenwald; Debra Martone; Erin Hennessey  
**Subject:** NH SBDC Funding

To The NH Senate Finance Committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to share my opinion of the NH SBDC yearly budget funding legislation. I am a 60 year old Commercial Construction Manager and a 27 year Londonderry resident. In 2018 was in the unfortunate and uncomfortable situation of being unemployed for the first time in my life. I enrolled in the "Pathway To Work" program and was introduced to the NH SBDC. This was truly the best thing that happened to me as a result of being unemployed and to get the much needed help that the SBDC provided. My initial advisor was Ms. Julie Glosner which has since been promoted to Regional Director of the Merrimack Valley Region. I continue to consult with Ms. Glosner to this day. Ms. Glosner assisted me with every aspect of starting and growing a business from Marketing and Finance to creating and implementing a Business Plan. I would not have been able to do this without her assistance. She has guided me through the initial phase of starting a business, helped grow my business and survive through the most difficult circumstances we've faced in 2020 into 2021. We are currently, what I would consider, a successful small commercial construction company and it would not have been possible without the assistance I received through the NH SBDC. I am sure there are numerous stories like mine out there and therefore I would like to respectfully request that you strongly consider restoring the NH SBDC funding to full funding (\$ 440,000.00 / per year) to allow companies like mine to take advantage of the many services provided by the NH SBDC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Callahan

JBC CONSTRUCTION LLC  
P.O. Box 107  
Londonderry, N.H. 03053  
Cell 603-965-5262  
Email: [dan\\_callahan@comcast.net](mailto:dan_callahan@comcast.net)

[info@jbc-constructionnh.com](mailto:info@jbc-constructionnh.com)

website: [www.jbc-constructionnh.com](http://www.jbc-constructionnh.com)

April 13, 2021

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Judith E. (Jude) Blake and I serve as the Chair of the Paul College Dean's Executive Advisory Board at The University of New Hampshire. I also serve as Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign Committee with the UNH Foundation.

This letter requests that you ensure that the \$440,000 State of New Hampshire match for the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center (NH SBDC) is restored to the state budget.

I attended the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and upon graduation, had a successful career as a Marketing Executive for many businesses, large and small. I know what it takes to run a business, and especially now, the challenges are great, particularly for small businesses.

For over 36 years, the NH SBDC has helped New Hampshire's small businesses as the leading resource for business advising and education in our state. In 2020, NH SBDC's estimated economic impact in New Hampshire was \$166 Million. During the past incredibly stressful year for small businesses, the organization has helped its clients gain access to over \$44 Million in new capital, increase sales by close to \$10 Million and create and retain 1,300 jobs. After 5 years, 80% of SBDC supported businesses are still in business and helping to drive economic growth in the state of New Hampshire. The organization is housed at UNH, at the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics. But UNH has also struggled during the past year, and state funding to the University System is the lowest in the country. They simply do not have the funding to fully support the SBDC. I recognize that \$440,000 is a significant ask. But when combined with Federal, local, UNH and in-kind resources, the NH SBDC helped support over 7,000 businesses who created jobs, paid employees, and provided livelihoods for New Hampshire families.

Small business success and job growth are the lynch pins to support economic growth in our state. Small businesses provide the resources to support essential state services. The removal of funding for the NH SBDC in the Governor's budget was a huge surprise for many business owners. This organization is the lifeline that many businesses need to keep afloat, now more than ever. While the House Finance Committee restored some of the funding, I respectfully ask for your consideration and support to restore the full \$440,000 for the NH SBDC in the state's budget.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can answer any further questions,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith E. Blake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Judith E. (Jude) Blake  
Chair, Dean's Executive Advisory Board  
The Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics  
University of New Hampshire

## Debra Martone

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**From:** tsink@concordnhchamber.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 4:58 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SBDC funding

Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of Senate Finance  
Senate Finance Committee  
State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SBDC Funding

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I write this in support of restoring full state funding for the SBDC in the upcoming state budget 2022-2023 fiscal years

The Chamber represents more than 930 businesses in and around the Capital Region. The vast majority of our member businesses are under twenty employees. Our role as a chamber is to provide resources to help these businesses succeed. We have enjoyed a strong partnership with the SBDC over the past several years, promoting their excellent business consulting services and informative seminars on a variety of nuts-and-bolts business topics to our members free of charge.

During the pandemic, the Chamber shifted gears to focus primarily on helping our members navigate the crisis and get the information they needed to stay in business and weather the storm. The SBDC was extremely helpful in providing the most up to date information on such topics as EIDL loans and grants, PPP funding., maximizing loan forgiveness and other pandemic related topics. They proved their value over and over again.

While we understand the fiscal challenges in creating a responsible balanced budget, we believe that restoring funding to the SBDC is a good investment in our economic future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tim

**Nominate a Small Business, Business, Nonprofit Business and/or Business Leader of the Year for Pinnacle Awards by Friday, April 23**



Timothy G. Sink, CCE, President  
49 South Main Street, Suite 104, Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 224-2508 | [tsink@concordnhchamber.com](mailto:tsink@concordnhchamber.com)

[www.ConcordNHChamber.com](http://www.ConcordNHChamber.com)







## Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center

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March 30, 2021

### Board of Directors

**Abby Sykas Karoutas, Chair**

Wyskiel, Boc, Tillinghast & Bolduc, PA

**Shawn Olsten, Chair Elect**

Townsquare Media

**Renee Touhey-Childress, Vice Chair**

Dover Children's Home

**Brianna Pettengill, Treasurer**

Leone, McDonnell & Roberts PA

**Kelly Glennon, Immediate Past Chair**

Jewelry Creations

**Scott Behan**

Blue Dolphin Screenprint & Embroidery

**Michael Blanchette**

Liberty Mutual

**Dennis Burke**

Mr. Electric

**Dr. Michael Coolegge**

Thrive Family Chiropractic

**Jeffrey Hughes**

Wentworth-Douglass Hospital

**Michael Mengers**

UNH Professional Development & Training

**Christopher Parker**

City of Dover

**Glenn Sabalewski**

Seacoast Media Group

**Jean Tremblay**

First Seacoast Bank

**Delise West**

Greg West Photography

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President

**Morgan Faustino**

Community Events Manager

**Melissa Launder**

Membership & Business Programs Manager

**Donna Rinaldi**

Finance Manager

**Kameron Towle**

Communications Specialist

Senate Finance Committee  
New Hampshire State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Small businesses make up 99 percent of New Hampshire companies and approximately 71 percent of the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce's membership. The New Hampshire Small Business Development Center (NH SBDC) is a critical partner for our chamber and for chambers of commerce throughout the state. We depend heavily on NH SBDC as a program partner to help educate and incubate small, start-up businesses who then "graduate" from NH SBDC's programs to provide jobs, generate business tax revenue, join their local chambers of commerce, and contribute to their communities.

The NH SBDC provides no cost, confidential, professional business advising and education. In the past year alone, they advised and trained over 7,000 businesses that represent nearly \$900 million in annual sales. NH SBDC clients have a total direct annual impact of \$166 million on the New Hampshire economy.

In Dover, two small businesses—one a woman-owned business and the other a veteran-owned business—worked with the NH SBDC to get their companies up and running. Both businesses are now members of the Dover Chamber. They have each outgrown their workspace and are looking for larger facilities. Both are also actively hiring additional employees.

The Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce depended heavily on NH SBDC throughout the past year as we worked to help our members stay in business and keep their doors open. The NH SBDC was instrumental in developing and delivering programs designed to educate local businesses about the federal COVID relief programs and how to access the much-needed funds. We simply could not have executed this massive outreach and education program without the NH SBDC as our partner.

We strongly urge the New Hampshire Legislature to retain at least level funding of \$440K per year for the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center. The small businesses in our region need their services, knowledge, and expertise to continue to survive and thrive.

Sincerely

Margaret M. Joyce

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Jan Schmidt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 7:48 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB544 doesn't belong in the State Budget

Honorable Senate Finance Members,

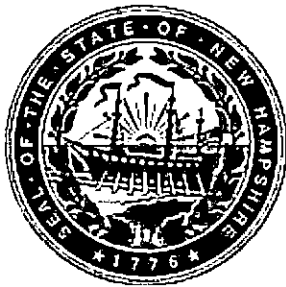
This really hasn't anything to do with "critical Race theory" at all. The intent is to stop any consideration, discussion, or understanding of race and sex and how they affect society. How could this be in anyway good for NH?

Please, do what is good and right and scrub this awful House Amendment from our Budget

Regards,  
Representative Jan Schmidt  
Proud Chair of the Nashua Delegation

At Home: [Tesha4@gmail.com](mailto:Tesha4@gmail.com)  
11 Pope Circle, Nashua NH 03063  
Hillsborough District 28, Ward 1 Nashua

In Concord: [Jan.Schmidt@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Jan.Schmidt@leg.state.nh.us)  
NH House of Representatives  
Labor, Industrial, and Rehabilitative Services Committee  
Room 307 Legislative Office Building



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Jeanne Torpey <jtorp51@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:15 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob.Guida@leg.state.nh.us; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB544 language in budget

Senate Finance Committee Members,

I urge you to remove the language of HB 544 from our state budget via HB 2. Thought policing is censorship that has no place in a state's budget. It is government over-reach and goes against the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Denying schools and businesses the right to discuss "divisive concepts" does not contribute to a free and open democracy. Talking about racism and sexism is important to working toward a more equal society. Is that what you fear?

Jeanne Torpey  
Concord

Sent from my iPhone

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Elizabeth Montmagny Duvall <elizabeth.montmagny@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 9:05 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Pro Racism/Pro Censorship Efforts of HB2

Hello,

I am requesting that you remove the language originally suggested in HB 544 and put into the state budget via HB2. This censorship of discussions and education about racism and sexism will not be tolerated by the citizens of New Hampshire. I was born and raised here and I am embarrassed to see the choices being made by the people who are supposed to lead and run this state.

You need to take out the language in HB2 that is a clear attempt at 1) government overreach, 2) thought policing, and 3) protecting racists and sexists in the state.

--

~Elizabeth Montmagny Duvall (*she, her, hers*)  
Owner, [Duvall Music Studios](#)  
Chorus Teacher, Kearsarge Regional Middle School  
22 Union Street  
Enfield, NH 03748  
603.727.6227  
[elizabethmontmagny.weebly.com](http://elizabethmontmagny.weebly.com)

“Music may achieve the highest of all missions; she may be a bond between nations, races and states, who are strangers to one another in many ways; she may unite what is disunited, and bring peace to what is hostile.” Dr. Max Bendiner

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Steven Kidder <[stevenlkidder@gmail.com](mailto:stevenlkidder@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 9:34 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove HB544 Language from State Budget!

Dear Senator Martone,

I urge you and the Senate Finance Committee to remove the incendiary and discriminatory language of HB544 from the State Budget. The inclusion of this in the State Budget is government overreach and a form of thought policing. If the State Budget passes with this addition it would go about enshrining into law that NH supports and protects racists and sexists. I believe NH is better than that. Thank you.

Stay Healthy & Safe,  
Steven

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Steven L. Kidder  
he, him, his  
[stevenlkidder@gmail.com](mailto:stevenlkidder@gmail.com)  
603-568-6606

## TESTIMONY REQUESTING THE REMOVAL OF HB 544 FROM HB 2

Date/Time of Testimony: 5/4/21 at 6:00pm  
Committee: Senate Finance  
Person Giving Testimony: Dr. Sue Kim, NH licensed psychologist in private practice  
Contact Info: [drsuehkim@yahoo.com](mailto:drsuehkim@yahoo.com)

Honorable Members of the NH Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to give testimony objecting to the inclusion of HB 544 (relative to the propagation of divisive concepts) in the HB 2 budget bill.

As a psychologist, I am obligated to speak up against HB 544 since it violates three of my profession's Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct.

My ethics code requires me to operate with **integrity**, "promoting accuracy, honesty, and truthfulness in the science, teaching, and practice of psychology." For decades, psychology research has found that systemic racism, institutional racism, interpersonal racism, and internalized racism all exist and need to be discussed and addressed in order for people and our society at large to be healthy. If HB 544 passes, it would be illegal in the state for psychologists to present accurate, honest, and truthful information about racism and sexism, information that is supported by empirical data. That doesn't make any sense. Why have psychologists do scientific research if you are going to forbid us to talk about the results?

My ethics code also requires me to uphold **justice**, making sure all people have "access to and can benefit from the contributions of psychology." If HB 544 passes, NH psychologists would not be permitted to offer workshops, trainings, and seminars designed to help people understand things like: how unconscious bias operates, strategies to cope with psychological distress and discomfort related to discussing racism, and ways to become resilient rather than avoidant with these important topics. As most people in relationships know, **AVOIDING** discussing something often makes things much worse than just learning how to talk about it.

Finally, my ethics code requires me to operate with **respect for people's rights and dignity**. As psychologists, we must be "aware of and respect people's differences" and try to eliminate our own biases so that we do no harm to our patients. HB 544 would outlaw the trainings I need to attend in order to continue assessing and monitoring when my hidden biases might be affecting my work.

If passed, HB 544 would basically forbid licensed mental health providers from following their ethics codes and would make this state a terrible place to practice.

Therefore, I am fulfilling my ethical obligation to speak up against HB 544 and to strongly recommend that you REMOVE HB 544 from the HB 2 budget bill. Thank you for considering my request.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Marsha Feder <marshafeder@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 10:29 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Budget

Dear Senator Martone,

I am writing to urge your opposition to the amendment to the budget that includes language from HB 544. New Hampshire does not need rules that will restrict free speech by eliminating discussion of racism and other discrimination. This is government overreach and has no place in our democracy.

Thank you for your service to our state

Marsha Feder

## Debra Martone

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**From:** nikki hentz <nnhentz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 10:45 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Please remove harmful language from HB 2

I beg you, as a resident of New Hampshire, remove the harmful language taken from HB 544 and snuck into the budget via HB 2.

The attempts to prohibit implicit bias training and understanding of systemic racism and sexism through the state budget is shameful and unconscionable. It will do nothing but cause harm to our community.

Particularly now, as the COVID-19 economic and health crisis has clearly shown in the bright light of day the disproportionate health and economic impacts on people of color and women, this bill creates more hurdles to adequately responding.

We cannot build a thriving, healthy, and equitable community in New Hampshire with policies like these in place to actively thwart efforts to address real and obvious problems. Please, do not let this stand in New Hampshire.

Thank you for your service,  
Nicole Hentz  
Dover, NH Ward 1



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Heather Inyart <heather.inyart@mediapoweryouth.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 12:21 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Re: prevention youth programs in NH Budget  
**Attachments:** MPY Senate Fin Comm Letter 4.21.21.pdf

Dear Senator Daniels and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Over the next two years, **New Hampshire's young people will face unprecedented challenges**, including an opioid crisis, mental health concerns, and stressed communities striving to recover from COVID-19. **Social media** has only intensified our worries and deepened our divisions. Our children are the witnesses and casualties of this technology-driven ecosystem that makes young people doubt their own abilities and glorifies risky behavior, including substance use, bullying, and violence.

Our children should not have to fight these forces alone. We need to equip them with the skills to navigate emotionally charged digital spaces in ways that **support their mental health**. We need to teach them how to push back on "influencers" selling harmful products, like e-cigarettes, that feed on insecurities and our human need to belong.

Media Power Youth is a prevention organization that uses media literacy to sustain healthy communities and build children's self-esteem. Our programs help young people become empathic communicators and discover their own agency in shaping their environment, including the one that lives on their cell phone. As an example, this fall we co-designed a program directly with NH high school students entitled *Digital EQ and Mental Health*. One of our **youth collaborators** commented how proud she was to have directly contributed to designing such a program, saying "*I hope these lessons will show teens that they are more valuable than a post, comment, or tweet!*"

In the last several budget cycles, Media Power Youth has received a \$50,000 annual grant from the Office of the Attorney General that supported the implementation of evidence-based youth programs like this and professional development training for schools and youth-serving community organizations. **These prevention programs teach children how to navigate the digital pressures they experience daily while they are still manageable before thoughts of suicide or substance use arise.**

Without this critical funding, Media Power Youth will not be able to continue to provide these essential services to NH youth and their families. We ask that you reconsider including this grant in the state budget. This support will ensure that our youth have the skills needed to steer their way through the difficulties inherent in today's media landscape and help them **process their pandemic experiences in positive ways.**

Our Executive Director, Heather Inyart, can answer any questions about our impact in New Hampshire. She can be reached on her cell phone at 513-290-7415 or by email at [heather.inyart@mediapoweryouth.org](mailto:heather.inyart@mediapoweryouth.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Paul Reuland and Heather Inyart

*Paul Reuland*  
Media Power Youth, Board Chairperson

*Heather Inyart*  
Media Power Youth, Executive Director

**Media Power Youth**

1245 Elm Street Manchester NH 03101

p: 603.222.1200 c: 513-290-7415

[mediapoweryouth.org](http://mediapoweryouth.org)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Jessica Wheeler Russell <wheelerjessicaann@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 1:48 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB544 in HB2

Hello,

It has come to my attention that the text from HB 544 was put into the state budget via HB 2. I opposed HB544 because it is censorship of our community, it is complete government overreach, and I have actually benefitted from these workplace trainings myself by making my work environment a safer place for me. This censorship of discussions and education about racism and sexism will harm NH in so many ways.  
Please remove this language from HB2.

Thank you,  
Jessica

Testimony Before the Senate Finance Committee  
Opposing House Bill 2, 4 May 2021 1:00 p.m.

John O. Willis  
419 Sand Hill Road  
Peterborough, NH 03458-1616  
603-345-0538  
johnosgoodwillis@yahoo.com

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to the inclusion of the language of HB 544 in HB 2 Section 330 "New Chapter; Propagation of Divisive Concepts Prohibited. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 10-B the following new chapter: CHAPTER 10-C PROPAGATION OF DIVISIVE CONCEPTS PROHIBITED." I have many concerns about the language of HB 544 that is included in HB 2, but in deference to the heavy demands on the Committee's time, I will limit myself to four points.

First, liberal Democrats have been receiving a good deal of criticism and ridicule from Republicans for insisting on "politically correct" language, for creating a "cancel culture," and for trying to be "thought police." Yet, here we have a Republican-sponsored bill passed by the Republican majority in the House that lists "certain divisive concepts" that will be forbidden as not being politically correct and that punishes political incorrectness by literally cancelling a contract ("In the event of the contractor's noncompliance with the requirements of this section, or with any rules, regulations, or policies that may be promulgated in accordance with this section, the contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part and the contractor may be declared ineligible for further government contracts.") That really does sound like thought police.

I am not comfortable with laws that dictate what citizens are allowed to say and what they are not allowed to say.

Second, legislating the content of teaching and training adds to a precedent that seems unwise, whether the legislation makes certain instruction mandatory (e.g., instruction in the Holocaust and genocide prevention) or forbids it (e.g., "certain divisive concepts"). My objection does not address the content of the instruction (I strongly support Holocaust or Shoah education and oppose a gag order on discussion of "certain divisive concepts"). My objection is that writing curriculum is a difficult full-time job that consumes a great deal of time and effort from school boards, parent groups, teachers, subject matter specialists, and school administrators. The additional imposition of legislated curriculum is not likely to be helpful and, if done conscientiously, will require a great deal of time and effort from senators, representatives, and staff. There is also the danger of partisan swings in legislated curriculum. One party might impose various curriculum mandates and gag orders when they were in power, only to have those legislative mandates reversed when the other party eventually gained legislative majorities. School curricula and staff training programs would become chaotic.

Third, I can find no indication of due process. If a teacher or trainer is incorrectly accused of teaching one of the "certain divisive concepts," there does not appear to be any mechanism for defense or rebuttal. The enforcement is carried out by the "senior political appointee" the agency head has assigned "responsibility for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the policy." For example, a teacher might carefully explain that official policy of the Federal Housing Administration for many years prevented Black families from obtaining mortgages, and a trainee or a student or a student's parent might erroneously complain that the teacher said the "United States is fundamentally racist" and that the student "should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of his or her race" after hearing about this discrimination. I found in the bill no mechanism for the teacher to try to explain what actually was and was not said. Apparently the "senior political appointee" determines both guilt and punishment. Further, punishment will be imposed not only for speaking one of the forbidden

"divisive concepts," but also for "noncompliance with the requirements of this section, or with any rules, regulations, or policies that may be promulgated in accordance with this section."

Some structure is provided with regard to complaints about contractors, but there is still no indication of how the contractor might offer a clarification, an explanation, or a defense. "The department of administrative services, or an agency designated by the department of administrative services, is directed to investigate complaints received alleging that a state contractor is utilizing such training programs in violation of the contractor's obligations under the binding provisions of this section. The department shall take appropriate enforcement action and provide remedial relief, as appropriate."

Finally, a minor point about costs. The "divisive concepts" rules will require considerable time on the part of teachers, trainers, and administrators to ensure that all of the "certain divisive concepts" have been expunged from the curricula and teaching and training materials. Much of that time will simply be contributed for free, but some of it, especially from contractors and from hourly staff will be compensated by the local or state agency.

The following costs will probably be fairly low and, in many cases, not passed on to a state agency, at least directly. "The contractor shall send to each labor union or representative of workers with which the contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this section, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment." Also, "The contractor shall include the provisions of this section in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or policies of the department of administrative services, so that such provisions shall be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The contractor shall take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as may be directed by the department of administrative services as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance."

The requirements for state agencies are not trivial. Here are a few examples.

The heads of all agencies shall review their respective grant programs and identify programs for which the agency may, as a condition of receiving such a grant, require the recipient to certify that it will not use state funds or assets to promote any of the divisive concepts defined in RSA 10-C:1, II.

The head of each agency shall use his or her authority under to ensure that the agency, agency employees while on duty status, and any contractors hired by the agency to provide training, workshops, forums, or similar programming, for purposes of this section, "training", to agency employees do not teach, advocate, act upon, or promote in any training to agency employees any of the divisive concepts listed in RSA 10-C:1

Each agency head shall:

- (1) Issue a policy incorporating the requirements of this chapter into agency operations, including by making compliance with the policy a provision in all agency contracts;
- (2) Request that the agency thoroughly review and assess not less than annually thereafter, agency compliance with the requirements of the policy in the form of a report submitted to the department of administrative services; and
- (3) Assign at least one senior political appointee responsibility for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the policy.

All training programs for state agency employees relating to diversity or inclusion shall, before being used, be reviewed by the department of administrative services for compliance with the requirements of RSA 10-C:2, V.

If a contractor provides a training for agency employees relating to diversity or inclusion that teaches, advocates, or promotes the divisive concepts defined in RSA 10-C:1, II, and such action is in violation of the applicable contract, the agency that contracted for such training shall evaluate whether to pursue debarment of that contractor, consistent with applicable law and regulations.

Altogether, those are a lot of required activities for each agency. Some of the activities would take time away from other, necessary activities of staff and agency heads. Some might require hiring additional staff.

Thank you for your time and kind attention.

John O. Willis. Ed.D.  
419 Sand Hill Road  
Peterborough, NH 03458-1616  
603-345-0538  
johnosgoodwillis@yahoo.com

Disclosure: Registered Republican voter in New Hampshire since 1969. Teacher in New Hampshire private and public schools and universities 1969 – 2017. Also worked as an independent consultant for school districts and the New Hampshire Department of Education.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Corinne Dodge <corinnedodge@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 2:29 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SB 130

NH Senate Finance Committee

I am writing to urge you to reject SB 130, regarding school vouchers, which is likely to be folded into the Senate budget without having to subject it to a public hearing or financial analysis. As a NH voter and retired public school teacher I am concerned about the obvious increase in my property taxes if this irresponsible bill should pass.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Katherine Cusack <marygracekatherine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 3:57 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** protect implicit bias training

Finance Committee,

I beg you, as a resident of New Hampshire, remove the harmful language taken from HB 544 and snuck into the budget via HB 2.

The attempts to prohibit implicit bias training and understanding of systemic racism and sexism through the state budget is shameful and unconscionable. It will do nothing but cause harm to our community.

Particularly now, as the COVID-19 economic and health crisis has clearly shown in the bright light of day the disproportionate health and economic impacts on people of color and women, this bill creates more hurdles to adequately responding.

We cannot build a thriving, healthy, and equitable community in New Hampshire with policies like these in place to actively thwart efforts to address real and obvious problems. Please, do not let this stand in New Hampshire. Protect implicit bias training.

Sincerely,  
Mary Grace Allen  
36 Canal St. Apt. 510,  
Somersworth NH,  
03878



## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Cora Quisumbing-King <coraq@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 4:26 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** From HB 544 to HB 2

To the Senate Finance Committee:

I hope this email finds you well.

Please decide **not** to include the topic/language of HB544 (HB2) in the budget.

Keeping the language censors discussions and education about racism and sexism in New Hampshire and runs the risk of protecting racists and sexists in our state and also violates first amendment rights.

What are we afraid of? Surely we can have honest conversations here in New Hampshire.

Let us not be afraid to have conversations about racism and sexism.

Let us choose open conversations and not censorship.

Thank you for your serious attention to this matter,

Cora Quisumbing-King  
Dover, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Sandra Robinson <s-l-robinson@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:22 PM  
**To:** Bob Giuda; Chuck Morse; Cindy Rosenwald; Debra Martone; Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Erin Hennessey  
**Subject:** Take racist/sexist language out of HB2

Senate finance committee,

As a New Hampshire resident I am very upset and concerned to see the racist and sexist language from HB544 being carried over into the budget via HB2. This is clear government overreach from a party who claims they value small government and individual freedom. This thought policing protects racism and sexism in New Hampshire and I want to voice my opposition and request that this unnecessary language is removed from the budget before it passes. For a state that highly valued individual freedoms this absolutely cannot stand.

Thank you for your time,  
Sandra Montminy  
Portsmouth, NH

Sent from my iPhone

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Suzanne Barton <65Butterfly@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 6:47 AM  
**To:** Tom Sherman; Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Take out: pro racism, pro censorship, pro sexism language in the NH budget (HB 2). OPPOSSE LANGUAGE within budget.

Dear Senate Finance Committee & Senator Sherman:

I am emailing you, as a concerned NH tax payer, to ask that you all link arms and stand firm in OPPOSITION to the pro-racism, pro-censorship, and pro-sexism language buried within the state budget via HB 2.

As a professional, I have spent the last 30 years in healthcare.

As a citizen, I have spent the last 20 years as a volunteer hotline crisis worker, and I will tell you that the healthcare costs related to trauma related to racism and sexism (which leads to violent assaults on more than half of our countries population) costs tax payers millions and millions of dollars each year. That cost is understated.

Study Adverse Childhood Experiences: Kaiser Permanente research, and review The Saunders Study; and / or dive into Racial Bias Training and you will uncover generation, after generation of oppression, violence, pain and trauma.

We, as a nation, need to heal.

The only way to heal our people and to lower healthcare costs for individuals and for the government, is to become more educated, and to oppose language such as the language found in HB 2.

I urge you to OPPOSE the language that is **\*hidden\*** in the budget, and help NH lead the nation in creating a more educated, healthy, peaceful, and violent free society.

God Bless,  
Suzanne Barton  
114 Clark Road  
Rye, NH 03870  
603-431-6483 landline

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Chris Darling <cdarling@florentinefilms.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 11:16 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Jay Kahn  
**Subject:** From Ken Burns re: the NH Film Bureau

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to voice concern about the **proposed elimination of the New Hampshire Film Bureau**, which has been located in the Department of Business and Economic Affairs Division of Travel and Tourism since July 1, 2018. It is established in statute in Section 12-O:11-a of RSA Chapter 12-O, which created the Department of Business and Economic Affairs.

**The Bureau was both de-funded and repealed in Governor Sununu's proposed FY22-23 State Budget and the House version which was approved on April 7.** I believe that elimination of the Film Bureau is a short-sighted decision that will cripple the New Hampshire film industry's growth for years to come and ask your Committee and the entire Senate to **restore it in the FY22-23 State Budget.**

State governments have long recognized and valued the economic benefits of film and media production. A specialized creative and high-technology business sector, film and media production creates skilled employment, stimulates tourism and helps state and local branding. It also contributes to the cultural life of a state by enhancing a sense of place and belonging.

A state Film Bureau or Office is an important and necessary vehicle to nurture new and established film and media makers, help their businesses succeed and benefit the state's economy. These governmental agencies:

- Create a "brand" that captures the state's film and media production atmosphere to increase the awareness of out-of-state film and media decision-makers.
- Assist with location scouting and permitting for all kinds of film, television, print and other media productions, through relationships with municipal offices, state agencies and non-governmental organizations.
- Facilitate workforce development and business growth by maintaining rosters of industry professionals and companies located in the state, including technicians, designers, artists, actors, musicians, studios and more.
- Further nurture the state's film and media community through educational and networking opportunities.

- Partner with educational institutions and governmental agencies to increase access to skill-building programs at the high school and college levels, to support the next generation of film and media makers and help keep them in the state.
- Capture and measure the economic and cultural impact of projects.

This specialized governmental activity is essential for the growth of the sector in New Hampshire. Currently, surrounding states and cities like Massachusetts, Maine, and Montreal are flooded with projects supporting thousands of jobs and bringing hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue to state and local economies. Not only does the decision to defund and repeal the Bureau not help our state, but it also actively prevents work from coming here.

Once eliminated from statute it will be difficult to bring the Bureau back. I strongly encourage you to **restore the Film Bureau in the FY22-23 State Budget.**

Sincerely,

Ken Burns



# ABRIDGE LAW

Kristin A. Mendoza, Esq.  
P: (603) 966-7634  
E: kristin@abridgelaw.com

February 25, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Chairwoman Ober and Honorable Members of House Finance-Division 1  
Legislative Office Building, Room 212  
33 North State Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of Senate Finance  
State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Support for New Hampshire Small Business Development Center

Dear Honorable Members of the House Finance – Division 1 and Senate Finance Committees:

I am writing to you to express my support for continued state funding of the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center (NH SBDC) as a line item in the Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budget and to respectfully request the restoration of NH SBDC's funding to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

I have practiced as a business law attorney in New Hampshire for almost 15 years and have advised hundreds of startups and small businesses during that time. It is no exaggeration to state that most of those businesses have been clients of the NH SBDC at some point and I can state unequivocally that **the NH SBDC is an unrivaled and necessary part of New Hampshire's startup and small business community.**

We all know that small business is the backbone of New Hampshire's economy and that New Hampshire entrepreneurs, both inside and outside of the technology industry, do not have the same access to capital in as in other markets, such as Boston. This reality makes it even more important that small businesses spend their resources carefully in order to enhance their chances of success. Over the years, I have come to rely on NH SBDC team members to provide business support services and connections to my clients that exceed the scope of services that I provide. I regularly encourage clients to meet with NH SBDC advisors. They frequently report back and express great appreciation in having such experts take time to help them better understand their business plan, pricing strategy and target markets. The NH SBDC's loss of funding would not only jeopardize its very existence but would leave NH businesses significantly disadvantaged as they try to compete in regional, national and global markets.

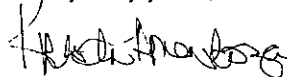
No other small business resource provides such breadth of knowledge through both its regional advisors and its online content and classes. Warren Daniel, the Seacoast Regional Director, is a 'go to' advisor for clients in the restaurant and hospitality industry. Andrea O'Brien, Business Sustainability & Business Advisor, is a knowledgeable and tireless champion for clients in the environmental and renewable energy fields. Julie Glosner and Hollis McGuire provide invaluable advice to a varied group of clients from Nashua through the Merrimack Valley, with particular expertise on raising capital through angel investment. Heidi Edwards Dunn, Education & Communication Director drives online and in-person content development. Each of these individuals has particular knowledge in certain areas and they all work together collaboratively and seamlessly to serve all businesses of New Hampshire.

When federal COVID relief funding became available through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the NH SBDC mobilized both their advisors and their online resources with tremendous swiftness to learn the nuts and bolts of the program and to provide live, online webinars in partnership with the Small Business Administration's district office multiple times every week to help New Hampshire business navigate the application process for this funding opportunity. At a time when I was fielding calls about the PPP program on a daily basis last Spring and guidance on the program was changing weekly, I cannot express how grateful I was to be able to provide clients with information about NH SBDC's webinars, knowing that they would be receiving timely and accurate information. The NH SBDC's response in supporting New Hampshire small businesses through the COVID-19 crisis has been unparalleled and is just one small example of their dedication and talent in supporting our small business community. Their work needs to continue.

Finally, in making the tough decisions that no doubt are involved in developing the State budget, I would caution you against making the assumption that the private sector will come to the rescue in supporting the NH SBDC's ongoing operation. We saw what happened in 2010 with the Women's Business Center (WBC) when it could no longer raise local funds through dues and other donations to match its federal grant and closed its doors. We also saw Southern New Hampshire University attempt to fill the WBC's role by obtaining its own SBA grant funding in 2012 only to see its Center for Women's Business Advancement close upon the end of its initial five-year grant. I am also aware of an out-of-state non-profit that specializes in providing small business support to minority business owners that has spent the better part of two years trying to obtain municipal and community support to bring its program to Southern New Hampshire. It has been seeking to secure commitments for funding of \$300,000 annually for its first three (3) years of operations. To date, it has been able to secure enough commitment to fund those first three years. If experience with small business support programs in New Hampshire tells us anything, it is that the private sector is not able to sustain these programs on its own. Loss of funding from the State would mostly certainly bring about the end of the NH SBDC, if not immediately, then at some point in the not-too-distant future.

For these reasons, I, again, respectfully request the restoration of NH SBDC's funding to a minimum of \$440,000 per year in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 as a line item in Department of Business and Economic Affairs' (BEA) budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Kristin A. Mendoza, Esq.

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Davis, Dwight E. <dwrightdavis@seniorhelpers.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 2:58 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NHMBOC Objection to Divisive Language Ban Effort

Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of Senate Finance  
State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

### Re: NHMBOC Objection to Divisive Language Ban Effort

The New Hampshire Minority Business Owners Coalition (NHMBOC) is dedicated to New Hampshire's growth and evolution as a great place to work and live. With our Live Free or Die motto, we have chosen to live here and have found the state to be a reasonable and relatively equitable place to be.

We write with grave concern about the language of HB544 that has been amended to the proposed NH Budget banning discussion of "divisive subjects" with the definition of "divisive" explicitly mentioning race. As minority business owners, we strongly oppose this language on several grounds. These grounds include its negative impact on our businesses, government overreach into private affairs & local control, the apparent intent behind it, the way what is deemed "divisive" would be determined, the language's (un)constitutionality, the contradiction to the Governor's LEACT Commission recommendations, and the negative impact on the image of the state.

**Negative Impact on Our Businesses:** Our businesses exist because of who we are. While we strive to be more than our race, our race and how we are perceived defines who we are as individuals. It makes many of our businesses what they are. To not be allowed to talk about who we are, what values we have, and advantages we can bring to our customers and clients is to impede our ability to be successful and to be our authentic selves thus threatening our livelihoods.

**Government Overreach:** This language passing would mean that government would be determining what can be discussed in private conversations. It would, also, mean that state government would determine what local schools could teach. This seems to take control of what is discussed away from private businesses and local school boards.

**Apparent Intent:** The apparent intent behind this and other similar legislation is to silence discussion and debate which are central to a healthy democracy. The language seeks to press everyone in the state to ignore the existence of people of color and the richness we bring to the state. It also seeks to ignore the troubled national history of oppression and systemic racism and exclusion of people of color in our economic system. Not only does this seem like an attack on us as people of color but seems to indicate the desire not to have us or diversity in the state.

**Determination of "Divisive":** The way what is deemed "divisive" would be determined by a small group of people without any input from "we the people". This is antithetical to how a democratic government operates.

**Unconstitutionality:** The language is almost verbatim of issued Executive Order 13950, "Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping," Judge Beth Labson Freeman of the District Court of Northern California has already found this same language to be unconstitutional.

**Contradiction to the Governor's LEACT Commission Recommendations:** The Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability, Community, and Transparency (LEACT) called for training on Implicit Bias to combat racism. Several Executive Orders and bills have been drafted to implement the recommendations of the Commission – all of which were supported by the Governor. This language would counteract those Executive Orders and bills.



**Negative impact on the Image of the State:** As BIA President Jim Roche has said, "This controversial language sends the wrong message to employers who recognize the importance of open, honest and yes, sometimes difficult and uncomfortable conversations with their employees about the issue of race and gender discrimination. To prohibit some employers from engaging in these discussions, as the language from HB 544 does, will leave them vulnerable to race and/or gender discrimination." As we are an aging state in need of an influx of new people to survive into the future, continuing if not accelerating discrimination, as we believe this language would, will paint the state as unwelcoming which will, in turn, deter people and businesses from coming here or doing business with us as we have seen happen in Georgia and North Carolina.

For these reasons, we urge you, as a community of business owners of color, to vote against this language and any bill that contains it. Let's make our state more welcoming and not one that will be perceived as unfriendly to diversity in all its forms.

\*\*\*\*\*

The New Hampshire Minority Business Owners Coalition is a group that has formed to represent the interests of minority business owners in NH. Our interests are to support this growing group of businesses and encourage further growth and development of these businesses in our great state.

Sincerely,

|                        |                                          |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Joede Brown            | Black Pearl Creations                    |
| Lisa Carter            | Drinkwater Productions, LLC              |
| Jarrett Daniel         | Daniel Assistants Group                  |
| Courtney Daniel        | Daniel Assistants Group                  |
| Dwight Davis           | Senior Helpers of Southern New Hampshire |
| Cordan James Haveron   | Cordan James, LLC                        |
| Talmira Hill           | T. L. Hill Group                         |
| Ashley Marand Iwanicki | Collective Studios                       |
| Joanna Kelly           | Two Joes Coffee, LLC                     |
| Lionel Loveless        | Route 1 Antiques                         |
| Chiavone Mobley        | Cordan James, LLC                        |
| Deo Mwano              | Deo Mwano Consultancy                    |
| Joel Nkounkou          | ecoText                                  |
| Gail Somers            | Yahso Jamaican Grille                    |
| Rajendra Thapa         | Café Momo                                |

Best Regards,  
Dwight

Dwight Davis  
President

**Senior Helpers of Southern New Hampshire**

62 Portsmouth Avenue, Suite 4

Stratham, N.H. 03885

**Office:** 603-583-4580

**Mobile:** 603-944-1797

**Fax:** 603-583-4921

**Email:** [dwightdavis@seniorhelpers.com](mailto:dwrightdavis@seniorhelpers.com)

Website: <https://www.seniorhelpers.com/nh/se-new-hampshire>

Check out this new video: [Click here to better understand Dementia and Alzheimer's](#)

Check out this new page: <https://www.seniorhelpers.com/resources/covid-19-coronavirus-update>



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**NHWBA**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE WOMEN'S BAR  
ASSOCIATION

NHWBA's statement opposing Section 330 of HB2

The New Hampshire Women's Bar Association (NHWBA)'s mission is to promote and support the advancement of women in the New Hampshire legal community. The NHWBA opposes the inclusion of Section 330 in its present form in HB2, because the NHWBA believes Section 330's inclusion could be interpreted as a barrier towards ending gender inequity in the workplace.

As drafted in HB2, Section 330, Chapter 10-C:2 appears to indicate that the State and its contractors shall not provide training on a concept that one race or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect to race or sex. As defined, the term "race or sex stereotyping" means ascribing character traits, values, moral and ethical codes, privileges, status, or beliefs to a race or sex, or to an individual because of his or her race or sex. 10-C:1, III.

The NHWBA is concerned that Section 330 would prohibit state agencies and contractors, which includes many NHWBA members, their organizations, and their clients, from providing effective and thorough workplace discrimination and sexual harassment training to their employees.

The NHWBA has more than 300 members. The NHWBA's members are judges, educators, government officials, and public and private sector attorneys, who practice across the entire Granite State. For more than two decades, the NHWBA has led efforts promoting the advancement of women in the New Hampshire legal field. Through continuing education seminars, networking opportunities, publishing resources, and providing public service initiatives, the NHWBA believes that quality education and training are key to advancing its mission.

Workplace sex stereotyping discrimination is prohibited as discrimination on the basis of sex under Title VII. Discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The Equal Pay Act prohibits employers from paying men and women differently for substantially equal work. In workplace discrimination training, it is imperative that managers learn about implicit gender bias and how to effectively mitigate differential treatment.

The proposed legislation could undermine the NHWBA's efforts to combat gender inequity, including workplace discrimination and sexual harassment education. Respectfully, the NHWBA asks the NH Senate to remove Section 330 from HB2, as the NHWBA believes its inclusion could be a barrier to ending gender inequity in the workplace.

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Susan O'Callaghan <socallaghan@gatewayscs.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 3:54 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Sandy Pelletier  
**Subject:** Choices for Independence & Adult Day Services

Dear Senator Finance Committee:

On behalf of Gateways Community Services, a 40-year-old area agency non-profit delivering supports and services for over 3,000 individuals with disabilities and acquired brain disorders, families coping with autism, and seniors in need of care, thank you for your work for New Hampshire.

We are writing in regards to New Hampshire's home and community-based services system. Currently the patchwork of services leads to significant gaps and unmet needs. The result is that many older adults and individuals with disabilities end up in more expensive, institutional care--they want to be in their homes and communities, which would also be cheaper for everyone. The cost effective measures we're asking you take in the budget include the following:

- (1) Support the Governor's budget request to include critical increases in three Medicaid services under the Choices for Independence Waiver (CFI): personal care, homemaker, and case management.
- (2) Help fill the gap in **Adult Medical Day services** by adding \$4 Million for the biennium to the state budget.
  - This investment would bring the reimbursement rate up to \$75.00 per day. Currently the reimbursement rate is \$54.44 per day per client when the *true cost of this service is between \$84.73 to \$107.34.*
  - Veteran's services through the VA is paying \$113 per day for veterans to attend one of the 17 Licensed Adult Medical Day Health providers.
  - On average Adult Medical Day programs across New Hampshire are providing services to about 773 clients per day.
- (3) Recommend that the Department of Health & Human Services conduct a market rate evaluation of services across all waiver programs so that the legislature can effectively evaluate rate setting for services that will bring parity to all homes closing the gaps, increasing the workforce and community services for a continuum of care.

Sincerely,

*Sandy Pelletier*

CEO/President  
603-459-2701

*Sue O'Callaghan, Esq.*

Director of Public/Legal Affairs & Chief of Staff  
603-459-2716



**COVID-19 ATTENTION:** Visit the NH.GOV website for the latest COVID-19 information, resources, and guidance. Click here <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/> for tips and resources.

**Direct Support Professionals (DSPs):** We are currently seeking reliable DSPs to provide necessary care and companionship to individuals we serve. If you or someone you know is interested, please forward your resume to Denise Bird at [dbird@gatewayscs.org](mailto:dbird@gatewayscs.org).

**Statement of Confidentiality:** The information contained in this electronic message and any attachments to this message are intended for the exclusive use of the addressee(s) and may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify Gateways Community Services at 603-882-6333 or reply to [privacyofficer@gatewayscs.org](mailto:privacyofficer@gatewayscs.org) and destroy all copies of this message and any attachments.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Julie Smiley <smilesjusa@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 5:22 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB2/HB544 OPPOSE Amherst NH Resident

Dear Finance Committee,

HB544/HB2 effectively BANS discussions and education on RACE and GENDER. Frankly unconstitutional. Surprised Rs would support something like this given their stance on free speech, small government, local governance and upholding the constitution. Apparently not so much.

Passing this via a sneaky amendment to the budget will spotlight NH in the worse way. Do you see how corporations in other states react to unconstitutional bills? Is that what we want for NH in this economy?

Given Sununu's opinion that systemic racism doesn't exist in NH, why on earth would we even need such a bill.

Come on, please don't sink so low as to allow this to stand.

Julie Smiley  
20 Holly Hill Dr  
Amherst, NH 03031

Sent from my iPhone

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Kelly Walker <walker.kelly45@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2021 10:39 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NH State Budget

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am a member of Gateways Community Services advocacy network. Gateways is a non-profit organization delivering services for over 3,000 individuals with disabilities and acquired brain disorders, families coping with autism and seniors in need of care, my family is one of those 3,000 families.

I am writing because New Hampshire needs a home and community-based service services system that works for all of us. Currently we have a patchwork of services which leads to significant gaps and unmet needs. The result is that many older adults and folks with disabilities end up in more expensive, institutional care—when they want to be in their homes and communities. The cost effective measures that the Senate can take in this budget include the following:

1. Support the Governor's budget request to include critical increases in three (3) Medicaid services under the Choices for Independence Waiver (CFI): personal care, homemaker, and case management.
2. Help fill the gap in Adult Medical Day services by adding \$4 million for the biennium to the State budget.
  - This is a cost-effective way to keep older adults in their community longer, which allowing caregivers to continue working, contributing to their families and the economy while their loved one is safe.
  - This investment would bring the reimbursement rate up to \$75 per day. Currently the reimbursement rate is \$54.44 per day, per client when the true cost of this service is between \$84.73 - \$107.34.
  - Veteran's services through the VA currently pays \$113 per day for veterans to attend one of the 17 Licensed Adult Medical Day Health providers.
  - On average, Adult Medical Day programs across New Hampshire are providing services to about 773 clients per day.
3. Recommend that the Department of Health and Human Services conduct a market rate evaluation of services across all waiver programs so that the legislature can effectively evaluate rate setting for services that will bring parity to all homes closing the gaps, increasing the workforce and community services for a continuum of care.

Sincerely,

Kelly Walker  
31 Milton Place  
Hollis, NH 03049  
[walker.kelly45@gmail.com](mailto:walker.kelly45@gmail.com)  
(603) 465-4131

My name is Judith Haywood I am the administrator of Langdon Place of Nashua, an Assisted Living Facility. Although my facility does not receive Medicaid funding we are part of a much larger team that has many long term-care facilities servicing our new Hampshire Residents. Our ability to recover the census for all of our facilities is complicated by many facets of the COVID pandemic.

New Hampshire was the only New England state not to raise daily Medicaid rates during the pandemic. Our facilities would not have made it this far without federal assistance much of which came from the state, and the 6.2% in Medicaid rate increases in the last budget. Those increases were a down payment of years of underfunding. They cannot be followed by no increases as we recover from the pandemic. Please raise Medicaid rates and support appropriating American Rescue Plan Act dollars for each licensed bed in order to save us from bankruptcy.

I appreciate your attention to this issue that affects so many of our elderly in the state of New Hampshire.

Judith Haywood



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Josh Merva <joshmerva@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2021 11:46 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SBDC Funding

Hi,

My name is Josh Merva and I wanted to write to you today to express my support for the New Hampshire SBDC.

Last year when COVID hit I reached out to the SBDC for help with my business Silikhan Publishing Group. We are a publisher of online websites, and our biggest one is GM-Trucks.com

The help we received from Julie and Hollis and the other people at the SBDC has been completely life changing. We have grown our business tremendously in the last year and with their help we are set to break ground on our new building in New Boston later this year. Our building is going to be large enough to house ourselves as well as a few other small businesses. Advice from the SBDC has led to many crucial developments in this process in terms of funding, engineering, etc. I can honestly say that without their help this project would have likely hit a dead end.

It is not just my business who they have helped. I have also referred a friend who is starting an automotive detailing business, as well as my fiancée who started a wood flower arrangement business when she lost her job from COVID. The SBDC has assisted them greatly in getting their businesses off the ground. Without proper funding the SBDC will not be able to help me and these other small businesses.

Please consider funding the NH SBDC back to the levels it needs to provide the invaluable service to our local small business. These small businesses are the backbone of the economy here in NH and to defund such a powerful tool for them to be successful would be short sided and in the long run hurt the tax revenue of the state.

Regards,  
Josh Merva  
Silikhan Publishing Group  
603-860-6788



April 13, 2021

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Tom Moulton, and I am the founder, owner, and CEO of the Sleepnet Corporation, located in Hampton, NH. My company makes masks for sufferers of sleep apnea, construction workers and more recently, front line medical and emergency personnel.

This letter requests that you ensure that the \$440,000 State of New Hampshire match for the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center (NH SBDC) is restored to the state budget.

I attended the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and upon graduation, settled in New Hampshire. I am an entrepreneur and have founded several small businesses, including a commercial real estate company, a construction company and now Sleepnet, all located in the seacoast of New Hampshire. While many small businesses have struggled during this past year, I was fortunate to have created a product using our patented air gel technology, our envo N95 reusable mask, that has protected thousands of front-line workers during this pandemic. I was able to expand my business, grow from 25 to 65 employees, expand my capacity, and manufacture a product right here in Hampton, NH that is now shipped around the world. But many small business owners have not been as fortunate. I understand that as well, as my businesses have had good years and not so good years.

For over 36 years, the NH SBDC has helped New Hampshire's small businesses as the leading resource for business advising and education in our state. In 2020, NH SBDC's estimated economic impact in New Hampshire was \$166 Million. During the past incredibly stressful year for small businesses, the organization has helped its clients gain access to over \$44 Million in new capital, increase sales by close to \$10 Million and create and retain 1,300 jobs. After 5 years, 80% of SBDC supported businesses are still in business and helping to drive economic growth in the state of New Hampshire. The organization is housed at UNH, at the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics. But UNH has also struggled during the past year, and state funding to the University System is the lowest in the country. They simply do not have the funding to fully support the SBDC. I recognize that \$440,000 is a significant ask. But when combined with Federal, local, UNH and in-kind resources, the NH SBDC helped support over 7,000 businesses who created jobs, paid employees, and provided livelihoods for New Hampshire families.

Small business success and job growth are the lynch pins to support economic growth in our state. Small businesses provide the resources to support essential state services. The removal of funding for the NH SBDC in the Governor's budget was a huge surprise for many of us business owners. This organization is the lifeline that many businesses need to keep afloat, now more than ever. I respectfully ask for your consideration and support to restore the \$440,000 for the NH SBDC in the state's budget.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can answer any further questions,

Sincerely,

Tom Moulton  
President and CEO, Sleepnet Corporation

Sleepnet Corporation • 5 Merrill Industrial Drive • Hampton • NH 03842 • 1-877-421-7337 • [www.sleepnetcorp.com](http://www.sleepnetcorp.com)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Michael J. Cohen <michael@mjchealthsolutions.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2021 4:15 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Support a Budget which Promotes Health and Wellness for NH

Honorable Senators,

I am writing to you to encourage all of you to support changes in the House Budget which best promote health and wellness for the people of NH. As the former Executive Director of NAMI NH and a member of a number of non-profit Boards which provide health, substance misuse treatment and prevention services and public health programming there are important budget programs and policy which need your support. In no order of priority, these include:

- Support for funding for community health workers at each of our 13 public health network. These positions in each of the network sites add value to improving health outcomes and reducing disparities. In addition, they are a beneficial return in investment supporting the Medicaid population;
- Support for Family in-home support services, home visiting, especially for those persons with addiction conditions; these programs have demonstrated reduction in maltreatment and abuse prevention. Family Resource Centers have done excellent work for many years and continuing their full funding is critical to all NH vulnerable families;
- Finance workforce loan repayment program as a way to keep trained healthy and mental health providers in NH, hopefully, reducing workforce shortage;
- Fully fund the alcohol Fund and Medicaid Program, including a fair rate for telemedicine services, which have been shown to be highly effective during the pandemic. Telemedicine also helps fill the workforce gap and better meets the needs of the patient, especially, those with unreliable transportation or no transportation;
- Fund the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program which have shown to be effective both in reducing smoking and in reducing future cost of medical care due to tobacco use. Use these days is on the rise in youth and young adults who smoke e-cigarettes;
- Fund the implementation of a statewide mobile crisis response and stabilization service as alternative to having children and young adults wait in emergency waiting rooms without care and to prevent their conditions from deteriorating because care could not be provided; mental health disorders are the same as any other emergency; would we have a person with a kidney emergency wait days, likely not. Mental illness should be treated like any other illness, especially in acute conditions; in addition, continue full funding for Multi-Tiered System of Supports, an evidenced based practice benefiting children with serious emotional disorders; Your continued support for system of care services is still necessary to meet a growing need of children and adolescents with emotional disorders and substance use conditions.

All of these programs together, if funded through your decisions, will make a substantial difference in improving health outcomes, especially for children and adolescents and their families. I urge you to put health and wellness first in this budget. We have seen, through this Covid year, how critical our healthcare system is to everyone in NH. Let's make sure we can keep our state healthy. Support a budget that does just that. Thank you,

Sincerely,

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Michael J. Cohen  
4 Upper Flanders Rd  
Amherst NH 03031  
604-496-1657  
[michael@michealthsolutions.com](mailto:michael@michealthsolutions.com)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** droottrm@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 24, 2021 10:09 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 544

Dear Senators of the Finance Committee,  
I write urging you to please REMOVE the language of HB 544 from the budget bill 2. This has no place in the budget, and deserves a stand alone hearing and discussion.

This is a deceptive and destructive bill that does exactly the opposite of it's purported intent. Many of our communities are taking strong steps toward racial understanding and reconciliation. An important step in this is education around the ways that our social habits and structures impact our perceptions of one another, and lead to policies and practices that impact various groups within our communities differently. This bill would undermine this work of mutual understanding and regard. It would handicap local law enforcement in its training. It would handicap and distort education in our schools.

Please REMOVE HB544 from budget bill 2 and oppose its passage.

Diane Root  
West Lebanon, Ward 1

*Hope is being able to see light despite all of the darkness - Desmond Tutu*  
*Compassion is one of the principal things that make our lives meaningful. It is the source of all lasting happiness and joy. - Dalai Lama*

*Diane Root*  
*West Lebanon, NH*  
*603-298-7597*

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Jeremiah Dickinson <jeremiahdickinson42@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 25, 2021 1:50 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB2

Hello Finance Committee members,

I am writing to oppose the language from HB544 around "divisive language" being included in any way in the state budget. It is outrageous to consider limiting speech in this area and in this way. We need more discussion of anti-racism and equal rights, not less. We move forward as a people and as a state by engaging in open and free dialogue around issues that challenge us, not by shutting that dialogue down in the service of a political agenda.

Jeremiah Dickinson  
Dover

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Nancy Brennan <burningnan14@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 25, 2021 2:37 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SB130

Please do not put SB130, the voucher bill, into the budget. Doing so would not allow the level of fiscal scrutiny a bill such as this deserves. The NH budget affects my town taxes, and the voucher bill is going to cause those taxes to go up. A couple of years ago, a similar bill was proposed. It ultimately failed, partly because of what it would do to town property tax rates. Also, the people of NH were against it. At that time the House and Senate listened to their constituents' concerns.

The current NH Congress seems intent on pushing this bill through despite the opposition to it and the cost to our towns. The Senate Education Committee passed the bill along party lines even though 86% of the public who weighed in were against it.

Listen to your constituents, please, not to the minority intent on destroying public education.

Respectfully,

Nancy Brennan, Weare



Senator Gary Daniels  
Senate Finance Committee

May 4, 2021

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable members of the Senate Finance Committee,

While the state budget bills contain numerous provisions in them, my testimony today focuses on 3 critical requests for this committee: first, that you refrain from including a school voucher plan like SB 130 which downshifts costs onto local taxpayers; second that you pass a public school funding formula that is more equitable and accounts for the pandemic effects on school budgets; and third that you remove entirely and without replacement the harmful language of HB 544, put into HB 2 by the House.

#### No School Vouchers in Our Budget

In March, the Senate majority indicated that it would take the contents of SB 130, the private, religious, and homeschool voucher program, and place it into the budget. Since this is the Finance Committee, I will focus my testimony on the financial and procedural reasons we feel this would be unwise. Three years ago, the NH House turned down a far more limited voucher plan in SB 193 for financial reasons, principally because in the ramp up period the Legislative Budget Assistant estimated that it would downshift \$99 million onto local property taxes. That program had an eligibility limited to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level and contained caps on the number of participants, provisions far less generous than the voucher plan adopted by the Senate this year, and yet SB 193 was still deemed to be too much of a financial risk to our communities.

As Rep. Neal Kurk asked in his floor speech against SB 193 from a few years ago, when talking about the downshifting this type of legislation would cause amid already challenging circumstances for school districts, “Do we really want to make things worse for local property taxpayers?” This a question that remains unanswered today. The plan you are considering now is far more expansive than the one rejected in 2018 which Rep. Kurk spoke against, and therefore could downshift an even greater amount onto local property taxpayers. To date there has been no financial analysis completed from the LBA on this bill, yet it is slated to be a part of our state budget.



We know the state will be paying more from the education trust fund if this voucher plan is included in the budget, but not to support our public schools. Instead, the state will be paying new money to parents who have already chosen to send their children to private, religious, or homeschools. Over a 3-year period we could be looking at nearly \$100 million public tax dollars being spent on vouchers for people who are already sending their children to private, religious, or homeschools.

And for those families who do choose to remove their student from a public school the state will be spending additional funds to temporarily lessen the blow of losing that badly needed funding. Why not spend these additional funds to support our public-school students whose districts need this money, rather than diverting it for such a voucher program? Rural and below average property valued communities will likely be hit the hardest by this initiative. The communities who struggle the most to raise money with limited state aid will suffer disproportionately.

A key component this committee should consider is that the financial oversight of the bill adopted by the Senate includes little oversight. Allowable usage includes "any other educational expense approved by the scholarship organization." What specific responsibilities are placed on the scholarship organization? SB 130 also states: "The scholarship organization *may* conduct or contract for the auditing of individual EFAs and shall at a minimum conduct random audits of EFAs on an annual basis." How many random audits? The legislation is silent on this, but under this language it appears random audits could be done to just a handful of accounts and meet the standards of this bill.

The Senate Education committee added a legislative oversight committee which is relatively meaningless. In other states with such programs, full-time state employees are conducting the oversight – a legislative committee does not have the resources or bandwidth to conduct proper management over a voucher program as expansive and freewheeling as this one in its allowable expenses. This committee would not be doing its due diligence to pass a budget with a program with as little oversight as contained in SB 130.

In addition, the scholarship organization can keep up to 10% of the state aid formerly sent to our school districts. On average 10% would be about \$460 per student of the average voucher payment of \$4,600 according to the Department, possibly up to \$850 depending on the circumstance of the child and their family. What does this say to the teachers in our state who spend, on average, \$423 out of their own pockets each year on classroom supplies or the students and educators we have heard from this past spring who drive to their library to access a wi-fi signal to take part in class or complete assignments? Not only are we subsidizing private schools using public dollars with this legislation, but we are also allowing a third-party to recoup extraordinary administrative costs in exchange for little to no oversight.

Finally, by putting school vouchers in the state budget, you will have completely cut off the opportunity for members of the House to deliberate and vote on this major piece of legislation, which will drastically alter education in the State of New Hampshire. House Bill 20 was retained in committee so that State Representatives could more fully weigh the pros and cons to the town or school district they represent. Do not put vouchers in the state budget and circumvent this

important public legislative process. Let the House continue to work on their bill and should they endorse it, send it over to you next year.

### Adequate School Funding

Rather than a voucher program in our state budget, we would urge the Senate to use those resources to close the \$90 million funding gap that students and taxpayers face because of the pandemic and the expiration of long overdue aid to our communities. The problem is bigger, no doubt than this biennium's budget, but this can be a bridge to undertake further changes to solve the inequities in our funding laid out by last year's School Funding Commission report. We supported the passage of SB 135 which closes part of the 2-year gap we face and urge this committee to commit the resources needed to finish the job. We disagree with the House's approach of reducing the SWEPT by \$100 million and have concerns this could jeopardize the significant investment the federal government is making to support our public schools as we exit this pandemic year.

### Remove HB 544

Lastly, the section of HB 2 that comes from the so-called divisive concepts bill, HB 544 is a particularly offensive piece to have to address during national teacher appreciation week. We appreciate our teachers for many things, including their ability to spark our young peoples' minds with critical thinking skills; this legislation would stifle that. The contents of HB 544 should not only cease to be a part of our state budget but should be removed from any further consideration by this body.

Furthermore, attempting to put into our laws this restrictive language is fraught with peril in so many respects and undermines the very principles of democracy that this bill purports to protect. Our country is at a crossroads with respect to racial and gender equity and inclusion. These discussions in the classroom and in the workplace are tools we use in this country to combat systemic race and gender inequality. One recently retired teacher who I know wrote to this committee implored in her letter, "Please do not limit voices of our students. Children by nature are curious learners and must ask questions! Educators are credentialed and skillful facilitators of this learning." Passing this kind of legislation, especially in our state budget, to silence these conversations will not only prevent the kind of inclusion we seek but set us farther back.

This budget can be a better representation of the priorities the people of New Hampshire hold rather than a document pieced together to ameliorate the extreme minority of one political party. We have an opportunity on this, National Teacher Appreciation Day, to show the most important people we serve as educators, our students, that we support a strong public education for all by funding our schools and striving to be a more inclusive and just community.

Respectfully submitted,



Megan Tuttle  
NEA-New Hampshire President

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Phil Hatcher <phil.hatcher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 25, 2021 3:05 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** inclusion of HB 544 language in HB 2

I urge you to remove the language of the so-called divisive-concepts bill from HB 2.

This unrelated policy prescription does not belong in a budget bill.

Moreover, such a policy is the kind of gross government overreach that Republicans typically oppose. Talk about cancel culture. This policy would attempt to cancel anyone who dared to talk about racism.

The reality is that we need to talk about racism, both in the past and in the present, if we are ever to move forward to a more perfect union.

I am not alone. Many Granite Staters are speaking out against HB 544 and its insertion into HB 2, including the NH Business and Industry Association.

Please remove the language of HB 544 from HB 2.

Thank you.

Phil Hatcher  
Dover, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Allison Howe <allisonh25@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 25, 2021 6:30 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 544 / HB 1

Please do not include a school voucher program in the state budget.

Please remove entirely the provisions stifling race and gender equity discussion in our workplaces and classrooms.

I support a school funding formula that is adequate and equitable for our students and communities.

Allison Howe

## Debra Martone

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**From:** MAYBETH ANDERSON <maybetha@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 25, 2021 7:55 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; john.reagan@gmail.com; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; bob.guida@leg.state.nh.us; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NH Senate Finance Committee: HB 544

Dear members of the New Hampshire Senate Finance Committee,

I implore you to remove the heinous language of HB 544 from HB 1 and HB 2, the budget bills. This language mandates that our state government censure speech, debate and even the mention of racial and sexual equity, justice and discrimination in schools. In the absence of discussion of these crucial issues the state of New Hampshire would espouse racism and sexism. Our citizens and students do not deserve those labels. They deserve to read, write, speak, hear and think about the racial and sexual issues that influence their lives every day. Give them that opportunity. Remove HB 544 from HB 1 and HB 2.

Respectfully,  
Maybeth Anderson  
3 Revolution Dr  
Dover, NH 03820

(603) 617-9243  
maybetha@comcast.net

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Beth Collea <bethcollea@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2021 5:31 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove Divisive-concepts language from HB2

Dear Senate Finance Committee and Fellow Granite Staters,

I implore you to remove the Divisive-concepts language from the budget bill HB2.

I recognize this as censorship and a pro-racism stance.

It DOES NOT BELONG in a budget or really anywhere in our state. It is an attempt at government overreach, thought policing, and protecting racists and sexists in our state.

We are not well-served by this attempt to prevent open exploration and honest discussion of our past and present.

Beth Collea  
1 Hull Ave  
Dover, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Bodoin, Michelle <Michelle.Bodoin@thementornetwork.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2021 8:58 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** [CAUTION: SUSPECT SENDER] Please Improve the system of Care to Older Adults.....

Good morning,

Please Support the Governor's budget request to include critical increases in 3 Medicaid services under the Choices for Independence Waiver (CFI): personal care, homemaker, and case management.

I would like you to support the Governor's budget request to include helping to fill the gap in Adult Medical Day Care services by adding 4 Million for the biennium to the state budget. This is a cost-effective way to keep older adults in their community longer, while allowing caregivers to continue working, contributing to their families and the economy while their loved one is safe. This investment would bring the reimbursement rate up to \$75.00 per day. Currently the reimbursement rate is \$54.44 per day per client when the true cost of this service is between \$84.73 to \$107.34. Veteran's services through the VA is paying \$113 per day for veterans to attend one of the 17 Licensed Adult Medical Day Health providers. On average Adult Medical Day programs across New Hampshire are providing services to about 773 clients per day.

I also am recommending that the Department of Health & Human Services conduct a market rate evaluation of services across all waiver programs so that the legislature can effectively evaluate rate setting for services that will bring parity to all home closing the gaps, increasing the workforce and community services for a continuum of care.

Please take this into consideration. Adult Day Health is needed and the participants need us every day.

Michelle Bodoin BA/PTA  
Regional Director  
C: (781) 760-0650  
[Michelle.Bodoin@thementornetwork.com](mailto:Michelle.Bodoin@thementornetwork.com)



## Debra Martone

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**From:** richbrown@metrocast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2021 9:15 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 on Tuesday 4 May 2021

I am opposed to this bill unless the state senate does not include a school voucher program in the state budget; and it removes entirely the provisions stifling race and gender equity discussion in our workplaces and classrooms; and supports a school funding formula that is adequate and equitable for our students and communities.

Richard Brown  
Gilmanton Iron Works, NH 03837



## Written Testimony Against HB & HB 2: The 2022-2023 Biennial Budget

Senate Finance Committee; May 4, 2021

Rep. Timothy Horrigan; Strafford 6

I am a member of the New Hampshire House, so I will be voting on the results of the conference committee after the Senate passes its version of the budget. Or, at least in theory I will be voting on it: the Senate has adapted well to the unique late-pandemic conditions of 2021. The House is in disarray, so all I know is that I should expect the unexpected.

I represent Durham, which is the home of the University System. I see no point in merging USNH with the Community College System at this time. Durham is also the home of the Small Business Development Center. The majority of House Finance made a big fuss over supposedly increasing SBDC's funding from \$50,000 to \$450,000 over the biennium, but the increase was merely an increase over the Governor's original proposal. Earlier budgets gave the SBDC a lot more money. The House Finance Committee used \$400,000 from the travel and tourism budget, which shows how shortsighted our state government is. We tend to think of economic development as a zero-sum game where Granite Staters can only get ahead by taking money and other economic resources away from other states— especially Massachusetts.

The budget contains some very small tax cuts, which will supposedly attract businesses from other states— especially Massachusetts. We like to think of Massachusetts as an over-taxed, over-regulated socialist dystopia, but ironically Massachusetts is the fastest-growing state in the Northeastern United States, and our tax burden is only a little less than theirs (notwithstanding our lack of a broad-based sales or income tax.) No one is going to move their business here from out of state just because our business taxes went down a fraction of a percentage point. But that's OK: the secret to growing our economy is to grow the businesses which are already here.

That said, I am not against lowering taxes: I just think the tax cuts in the budget will accomplish nothing aside from lowering state tax revenues, which is not a good thing.

The “budget trailer” bill HB 2 incorporates the entirety of the ridiculous bill HB 544, aimed against a fictional bugaboo called “Critical Race Theory,” defined so broadly as to ban all efforts to combat racism or any other form of bigotry. (Actually, there is an academic school of thought which really is called “Critical Race Theory,” but it is not at all harmful and bears no resemblance to conservatives' caricature of it.)

HB 2 also includes a proposal whereby a state of emergency would automatically expire after 21 days unless the House and Senate convened to vote to continue it. If this had been the law on March 13, 2020, the House and Senate would have had to meet in person sometime in the first half of April 2020, which would have been unsafe, and also impossible.

Finally, HB includes an abortion “gag-rule” provision, which would almost certainly shut down every reproductive health facility in the state.

I urge the Senate to eliminate every culture-war provision in the budget, to leave existing tax rates as is, and to devote more resources to small business development.

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Rep. Timothy Horrigan; 7A Faculty Rd; Durham, NH 03824  
email: Timothy.Horrigan@leg.state.nh.us; ph: 603-969-3823

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Nancy Vawter <nancy@atlanticmediaproductions.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2021 9:21 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB544/HB2

I'm urging you to take out the HB544 language that has now been included in HB2.

I'm a Co-owner (along with my husband) of a video production company here in New Hampshire. We have produced a number of videos for the State of NH over the years. We also produce documentaries and other videos that pertain to our forgotten Black history here in NH. We're also currently working on another documentary on Race & Equity in NH. It seems to me that I will never be able to produce any other videos for this State if this language remains.

I would also like to ask this committee if they know people of color? Asians? Women? If so, do you know how all of these groups are currently being discriminated against? Well I do! I have Black friends who have had to hire private security because of death threats! Yes - right here in good 'ol New Hampshire. And those threats have come from the NH White Nationalists! It's terrifying for me to hear the stories of the calls my friends have received! And now you want to stifle any discussion or dissemination of facts surrounding the existence of systemic - both overt and subconscious - racism? This is truly outrageous!

I also happen to be a woman and have been discriminated against and sexually assaulted. Should I keep my mouth shut? Should I not openly talk about the continued uncomfortable situations I find myself in so that I might help create positive change for my granddaughters? What about your daughters, granddaughters, sisters and your own mothers? Is this ok?

We need to stop this madness. YOU need and can stop it! Why is it so frightening to address our problems? What are you so afraid of? Facing our collective histories - ALL our histories is nothing to be afraid of. We can and should do better - be better!

Please do the right thing for ALL New Hampshire citizens! Take out the HB544 language!

Nancy Vawter  
Producer/Co-Owner  
Atlantic Media Productions  
<https://us-east-2.protection.sophos.com?d=atlanticmediaproductions.com&u=d3d3LmF0bGFudGljbWVkaWFwcm9kdWN0aW9ucy5jb20=&i=NWRIZTQxMzMzYjRhNTgwZDk2OTJjZGRj&t=Yzc2amR6UzV1OHlodk1vOTdpcVBSZndodXFBczZUd3BEUHdJbEUvNGF0VT0=&h=9c453992e5274635be1a518f7d3a09f0>  
O (603) 431-4565  
C (603) 969-8457

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Leaf Seligman <leaf1231@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2021 9:22 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 2

Dear Ms. Martone and members of the NH House,

I write to strenuously object to HB 2 because of the provision in the budget bill to prohibit the teaching of “divisive concepts,” I have been teaching within the University System of New Hampshire since 1985 and this prohibition would have gutted every course I taught because critical thinking inherently contains concepts with multiple perspectives, often divergent. Critical thinking is literally foundational to higher education and for legislators to presume that any of us could or would want to ignore concepts that require consideration for full understanding of our history and place in the universe is as dangerous as it is stupefying.

This bill insults and endangers every faculty member and student in New Hampshire, all of whom deserve to study and learn freely without the imposition of those who fear critical thinking.

Leaf Seligman  
Hancock, NH

We have to study how to be tender with each other until it becomes habit. —Audre Lorde

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Deborah LEAVITT <daleavitt77@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2021 9:26 AM  
**To:** Lou D'Allesandro; Gary Daniels; Bob Giuda; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; John Reagan; Cindy Rosenwald; Chuck Morse  
**Subject:** HB2

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to register my strong opposition to the insertion of the damaging language lifted from HB 544 into the state budget via HB 2. This censorship of discussions and education about racism and sexism will harm NH in many ways. As a retired teacher, I find it completely hypocritical for lawmakers who claim First and Second Amendment protections when it comes to free speech by corporations and gun owners to now want to muzzle concerned citizens who want to look at ways that our educational, governmental, law enforcement and other institutions have not equally benefitted all residents of New Hampshire. I know that I am not alone in vehemently opposing this underhanded way to reintroduce this divisive issue after it was tabled by the House. Please remove this language from the budget.

Sincerely, Deborah Leavitt  
Ward 2, Dover

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Anthony Holtz <awave28@live.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2021 2:53 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** House Bill 544 Lives in HB2 - and Should NOT

I write to express my opposition to the inclusion of language from House Bill 544 in the state budget bill (House Bill 2).

House Bill 544 was bill that, essentially, strove to eliminate discussions of or trainings in racial equity philosophy, language, or concepts. On the surface, it looks reasonable. No one should be made to feel "discomfort, guilt, [or] anguish", should they? No one should bear "responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex", right? And it should be self-evident that no "one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex;", shouldn't it?

In a perfect post-racial and post-gender society where everyone is equal, the answers to these questions would be yes. *But we don't live in that society.*

In the society where we actually live, right now, everyone is NOT equal. Processes, systems, structures, rules, and norms have been developed over literally hundreds of years to establish the primacy of white, heterosexual, property-owning men. The Constitution specifically protects property; laws and norms, up until 1865, declared that people of color WERE property, and lots of parts of the country still hold that they are second-class citizens (when they are considered citizens at all). The Constitution only gave women the right to vote in 1919; laws and norms required a woman to get her husband's permission to enter into contracts until the 1960s (and women still earn less, on average, than men). There have been advances made. But white men with property have had benefits since 1492 that women and people of color have only just begun to access. And the advantage that these hundreds of years of custom and law have provided are real.

The situation is analogous to having a footrace in which one runner has a 20lb weight on each ankle and the other does not. Even if the second runner had no direct involvement in affixing the weights on the first runner, shouldn't there be some acknowledgment that the unweighted runner has an advantage? Especially if we want to argue that the current race is being run fairly?

Discussing race and gender, if done properly, is intended to acknowledge that advantage. Acknowledging an issue is the first step to dealing with it. Refusing to acknowledge it because someone might feel "discomfort" doesn't negate the advantage, nor does it make progress toward the day when the weights are removed from *all* runners.

Similarly, refusing to allow discussion of the historic advantages that white men of property have had will not hasten the day when all members of the society truly are equal.

Isn't the arrival of that day what we *really* want?

--Anthony Holtz  
Dover, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Stephanie Lynch <snlynchphd@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 4:13 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John.Reagan@leg.state.nh.us; Bob.Guida@leg.state.nh.us; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Fully Funding of Developmental Services and the Adult Dental Bill

Dear Finance Committee Members,

As the mother of a lifetime resident of NH who works as a farmer and baker in a lifesharing community in the state, and happens to have down syndrome, I am writing to urge you to fully fund developmental services and especially the Adult Dental Bill. One of the important measures of a society is that of how they treat their most vulnerable citizens, and we feel very fortunate that my son Jason is not on a waiting list, and has the support he needs to be a happy and productive citizen. I wish this were the case for all our residents who experience developmental disabilities. From early intervention through school years, and later with vocational and social opportunities and help with residential services and health care, people can have good and productive lives even if they happen to be born with challenges.

It's also important that there be adequate funding to pay fair and living wages to those who care for those with disabilities. This is important to attract and retain quality care givers and also to provide a good standard of living to this large group of workers in NH and their families.

The Adult Dental Bill is also important to fully fund this year. For my son and many others, the cost of basic dental preventative care can quickly use up all of his spending money.

Investment in basic dental services such as cleanings, x-rays and cavity fillings can pay off tremendously in reduction of later medical and dental costs as seen in the experience of Massachusetts Medicaid and others. The benefits in terms of quality of life are immeasurable.

Thanks very much for your attention to these matters,

Stephanie Lynch PhD  
snlynchphd@aol.com  
(603) 553-8251

## Debra Martone

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**From:** neilley@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 5:16 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY: Protect New Hampshire's Family Planning Program

Hello members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I write to respectfully ask that you consider the effects on NH family planning clinics if HB1 and HB2 are passed as currently written. Access to affordable reproductive health care services is essential for our communities, especially in this time of financial difficulty for many. Please amend HB1 to fund family planning services for the past 9 months.

Regarding HB2 - I fail to see any valid reason to physically separate types of medical services that are performed in the same clinic (and I worked in health care for over 30 years as an RN, 16 of those for the state). This will obviously result in more cost to the health care centers and has the potential to negatively impact patient care. Please protect NH residents from this attempt to limit essential medical care and amend this section of HB2.

Thank you for your time and for your service on behalf of all of us.

Ellen Neilley  
Francestown, NH

**Debra Martone**

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**From:** k liz <kkliz@live.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 5:23 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 and 2

Hello,

This is to register my opinion regarding the bills being brought up on May 4<sup>th</sup>. I urge you to:

\*NOT include a school voucher program in the state budget.

\*Remove entirely the provisions stifling race and gender equity discussion in our workplaces and classrooms. This is a gross disservice to the students in our state.

\*Support a school funding formula that is adequate and equitable for our students and communities.

Sincerely,  
Kristin Lizotte  
Wilmot, NH



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Sarah Thorne <scthorne350@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021 8:47 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Please support LCHIP

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please support LCHIP this year at the \$5m level. Our conservation lands are so important to our NH heritage and economy. During Covid, throngs of people flocked to our conservation lands to renew and connect with nature. We all need conservation land close to where we live for our physical and mental health, clean water, clean air, food, wood, and habitat. LCHIP is a bargain for all the benefits that it will continue to provide for present and future generations.

Thank you,

Sarah Thorne

Gilmanton



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
LAND TRUST  
COALITION



May 4, 2021

Dear Senator Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to express the undersigned organizations' support for the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. As you know, the Governor's proposed budget and the House-passed budget provided \$5 million for LCHIP in FY 2022 and FY 2023. As the Senate Finance Committee works to finalize the next state budget, we would urge you to include this full funding in the budget.

Since its first grant round in 2001, the program has provided significant benefits throughout New Hampshire; in fact, LCHIP has assisted with projects in 179 of the state's 234 municipalities. Those 530 grants have helped to preserve more than 300 historic structures and sites and to conserve nearly 300,000 acres of land needed for food production, water quality, ecological values, timber management and recreation including hunting and fishing. Equally noteworthy, the \$54 million of state money was matched by \$258 million from other sources.

However, LCHIP's impact goes beyond specific projects. Its ability to leverage additional sources of funds underscores the commitment our state continues to make to both protect and invest in our natural and cultural resources. This impact is also exemplified by the unmet need and demand for LCHIP assistance, even 20 years after the Legislature established the program.

In fact, over the last 10 years, the program has received 25% (177) more applications than could be funded". The program's proposed budget for the next biennium will certainly help mitigate that unmet. The Finance Committee's past backing has been critical to the many success stories LCHIP has been able to

celebrate. We would again urge the Committee to provide \$5 million for LCHIP in FY 2022 and FY 2023. Thank you for this support.

Sincerely,

Doug Bechtel, President  
NH Audubon

Matt Leahy, Public Policy Manager  
Society for the Protection of NH Forests

Sheila Vargas, Government & Community Relations Manager  
The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire

Shelby Semmes, VT/NH State Program Director  
The Trust for Public Land

Debbie Stanley, President  
NH Land Trust Coalition

## Debra Martone

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**From:** EDWARD DOYLE <edward.doyle14@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021 12:08 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposition to SB 130

Dear Senators,

Ahead of your hearing on Tuesday, I am writing in opposition to SB 130. Aside from moral and philosophical opposition, its expected impact on town budgets is murky, hence why it was voted down unanimously in the house committee.

Please do not include SB 130 as an amendment to the budget.

Sincerely,

Edward Doyle

Manchester NH

**Debra Martone**

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**From:** julie orton <julininkasi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021 12:55 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SB150

April 22, 2021

Re: Thank you for supporting SB 150

Dear Senator,

Thank you for voting in support of SB 150 this session, a bill establishing a dental benefit under the state Medicaid program. It is deeply encouraging to know that the NH Senate unanimously supported SB 150.

**My son Cameron is now 30 years old and I have spent the last 30 years struggling to keep his teeth healthy. He is a difficult case and requires an OR certified dentist, this means we are not able to seek low cost or income based dental. These specialists are hard to find and do not accept payment plans. Many times I have had to travel out of state even to find him dental care. Every couple of years I have to start the process of coming up with funding and grants to pay for the procedure. Payment has to be guaranteed before an appt. will be booked and then it is usually several months to get an appt. He routinely goes without dental for long periods due to the difficulty of getting care and finding a dentist willing to take him as a patient. What NH provides for him now under Medicaid is to wait until he has painful abscesses and have the teeth removed on a strictly emergency basis. The dentist can't even clean the teeth or do ANY other dental during the procedure. To be clear, that means he would suffer unbearable pain indefinitely and have his teeth pulled one by one until he has no teeth. This is shameful and seems deliberately cruel. Would any one consider this acceptable for themselves or their child? He wouldn't be able to wear a denture so he would just have no teeth for the rest of his life. Currently in NH Medicaid can't even authorize exceptions for special cases like my sons. Cameron has had three teeth pulled over the years due to awful abscesses that bothered him for months and affected his health horribly. He can't speak so he just suffered in what I can only imagine was terrible pain and he also had pretty extreme weight loss each**

time because he couldn't eat normally. My son has a lot of challenges but I want him to have healthy teeth for as long as possible and I work very hard to try and make sure he will. It would help us so much to have dental coverage, while it would still be very difficult to get dental care it would be so much better to at least not have to stress about coming up with the funding for it. I can't believe it's much cheaper for Medicaid to have to cover the emergency costs of removing teeth rather than preventative dental care. That is our story, thanks for considering SB 150



I hope that you and your colleagues in the NH Senate will invest in this fiscally sound policy by adding much needed funding to NH's state budget. Oral health is

an important part of overall health, and we need to stop disconnecting the mouth from the rest of the body. Medicaid dental coverage is smart policy and will make a difference in the lives of thousands of Granite Staters with disabilities in New Hampshire!

Sincerely,

Julie Hilliard

45 Ledgewood Rd

Claremont, NH 03743

252-202-5227

Sent from my iPhone

## Debra Martone

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**From:** William Maddocks <billnhccc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 7:54 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Resources on Critical Race Theory and Business Opp to HB 2

Dear Senator Daniels,

I appreciate you calling me back last night and I apologize that you were hearing background noise and could not understand me at times. Here are the important points I wanted to express to you with related resources. I hope you take the time to review these brief materials and that you will get back to me if you have questions.

1. Business opposition to HB-2 "Divisive Concepts" amendment - As I mentioned more than 225 NH businesses from Fidelity Investments and Dartmouth-Hitchcock and Nixon Peabody and the Norris Cotton Cancer Center have opposed HB544 and the related amendment because it "would not only harm the ability of New Hampshire businesses to be competitive, it would severely harm the state's image as business-friendly, since it stifles the ability of organizations who do business with the state to foster diverse workforces as they see fit" Please refer to the NH Businesses for Social Responsibility [sign on letter](#) for the full list of signatories.

2. What is Critical Race Theory - As I tried to explain the authors and promoters of this legislation clearly do not understand diversity education and have singled out one aspect of it Critical Race Theory (CRT) to create a new bogeyman based on misinterpretation and outright mistruths. Here is a short and [clear description](#) of CRT from the American Bar Association which may dispel some of the misinformation that is circulating. As I tried to explain to you CRT is one tool in a tool box of methods to help build greater understanding and compassion around difference. To call it anything else is disingenuous and supports an agenda that is opposed to doing the hard and honest work of becoming better humans and citizens.

3. Many companies, nonprofits, municipal governments, police departments (including Amherst), schools, universities and religious organizations are working hard to confront bias and create better understanding and skills for their employees, members and students to do better to create the kind of society that equity and fairness demands. A statewide organization dedicated to this work called the [Workforce Diversity Coalition](#) makes [annual awards](#) to those NH businesses and organizations that "demonstrate an organization is making progress towards increasing diversity in the workplace; possess a senior leadership team that helps to drive inclusive workplace efforts; offer programs that demonstrate a "culture change" approach to diversity, i.e. inclusion principles are embedded in the DNA of the organization and that people from diverse populations are actively recruited, retained, and have advancement opportunities within the organization."

Finally, as the 2020 Decennial Census will soon reveal, the Granite state is becoming more diverse and more like the rest of the nation. We all have a moral obligation to confront systemic racism and sexism because it harms, degrades and shortens peoples' lives. Disparities in health, education and access to critical services is a public safety and public health issue. Our communities deserve a government that cares for all Granite Staters!

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of my letter and would be happy to discuss this further.



Bill Maddocks

Bill Maddocks Consulting LLC

Cell: 508-574-3285

Skype: billmaddocks

Pronouns: he, his, him

**Debra Martone**

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**From:** David Coursin <drcoursin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 9:18 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove the language of HB 544 from HB2-FN-A-Local

HB 544 was a bad bill from its inception, reflecting the second worst intent of a democratic legislature, the intent to erase history and suppress how it is alive today. The House sponsors of HB 544 then acted on the worst intent of a legislature, the intent to enact laws secretly, by slipping its three pages into HB 2-FN-A-Local.

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, you know the language and the history of how it came to you. You know the language can be found in HB2 under Chapter 10-C, starting on page 155, line 13.

By now, you know that the Business and Industry Association publicly opposes HB544 and its language because of the impact it would have on New Hampshire businesses, employers, and our state's reputation. The success of our business environment has long been one of the highest legislative priorities of the Senate.

You know that the federal courts have already struck down similar language advanced by the former president in an executive order, and that passage of language reflecting HB 544 would open the door to expensive litigation using up the limited resources of our Attorney General's office. Likewise, the AMA, the US Chambers of Commerce, the American Hospital Association, and the American Council on Education have publicly opposed that executive order.

You know that the NH Charitable Foundation has already testified in opposition to HB 544, an indicator of the far-reaching potential for its language to impact charitable giving and the non-profit sector in New Hampshire in all the varied advocacy roles that they sustain.

You know you have the power to stop the language of HB544 from going any further than your committee. You know you have the power to tell the House that the Senate won't be used as their tool for secretly establishing the laws of our state. I trust you will use those powers.

My Best Wishes,  
David R Coursin  
32 West St  
Northwood, NH, 03261  
603-496-4150  
[drcoursin@gmail.com](mailto:drcoursin@gmail.com)

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**STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

This message may contain information that is privileged and confidential and is intended for the exclusive use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed. If you received this message in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete this electronic message and any attachment(s) from your system. Thank you for your cooperation.

Daisy Goodman, DNP, MPH  
566 Hanover Center Rd  
Hanover, NH 03755

May 3, 2021

RE: Written testimony in opposition to Chapter 10-C of HB2

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the language in Chapter 10-C and all other language in HB2 related to the "Propagation of Divisive Concepts" (formerly HB544). This section should be stricken from the budget entirely. This language and the financial consequences threatened for noncompliance amount to censorship of free speech. Furthermore, under this legislation many of the programs put forward by Governor Sununu with regards to reducing disparities related to COVID vaccine equity, equitable business practices, and antibias training for police would lose funding. Chapter 10-C is *itself* divisive, rather than opposing division.

New Hampshire cannot afford to become the only state in New England which does not actively promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in state policies, education, healthcare, and business practice. Our competitors on all sides will be happy to absorb companies and talent who flee from a state where free speech and expression are censored and educators muzzled. We have seen this in the economic fallout experienced by North Carolina and Georgia when equally repressive legislation has been enacted. I strongly urge you to practice responsible policymaking and remove all language related to Propagation of Divisive Concepts from HB2 and support a healthy budget and economy in our state. The alternative will be deeply disruptive not only to our democratic ideals of free speech, but also to our economy.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Daisy Goodman', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Daisy Goodman

Hanover, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Margaret J. Sherin <Margaret.J.Sherin.MED@dartmouth.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 10:09 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY: Protect New Hampshire's Family Planning Program

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Maggie Sherin and I am a first-year medical student at the Geisel School of Medicine in Hanover, NH. I am writing to urge you to **amend HB1 to include 9-month backfill funding for Family Planning** and to **amend HB2 to remove the requirement for physical and financial separation of services**. Without these changes, women and families will be without funding for reproductive health care for several months (including well-person exams, cancer screenings, access to birth control, health counseling, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases), which could have catastrophic consequences for individual and population health. Additionally, the absence of these changes could force health care providers to close their doors to their patients if they're required to financially and physically separate their services. HB1 and HB2 as they stand will increase the barriers to receiving quality, evidence-based healthcare for individuals. I urge you to please amend HB1 and HB2 to fill the gaps in reproductive care for women and their families and ensure that no individual is without healthcare.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your time and I hope to see you vote to amend HB1 and HB2 next week.

All the best,

Maggie Sherin  
She/Her/Hers  
Geisel School of Medicine  
MD Candidate, Class of 2024

## Debra Martone

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**From:** ELIZABETH LURIE <ehlurie@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:13 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Testimony: Protect Nh's Family Planning Program

Thank you for your work on the finance committee. I am a resident of Plainfield, NH.

Firstly, I write to request that you amend HB1 to include 9-month backfill funding for Family Planning. Well supported family planning is critical to a healthy society. Unamended, HB1 will leave an enormous gap in support for women and families at a time when economic and emotional recovery is exceptionally difficult. Please don't further marginalize the younger more vulnerable citizens of our society. They need more help, not less.

Secondly, I request that you amend HB2 to remove the requirement for physical and financial separation of abortion services from other health services at facilities that provide those services. The requirement for separation creates unreasonable financial and logistical hardship on clinics providing health services, effectively forcing clinics to stop offering abortion services. Abortion services are critical to the health of our society, allowing women and families to make the best choices for themselves, their children, and their families. The government has no place in the decision making process between a woman and her doctor any more than the government has a place in the decisions between a man and his urologist when considering a vasectomy. Women should not be denied access to health services that are fundamental to their lives and choices.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Elizabeth Lurie

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Nhi Nguyen <nhinguyen642005@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 3:42 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB544

Hello members of NH's finance committee,

My name is Nhi Nguyen and I'm a sophomore at Dover High School. I'm currently in Project DREAM and we attended a meeting hosted by the NAACP Seacoast Youth Council. In the meeting, we discussed the potential repercussions of the HB544 bill. We wrote a letter addressing our concerns and what should be done instead. We hope you would consider the contents of our proposal when deciding whether or not to pass the bill. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.



concerns on HB544

Dear Legislators in the Finance Committee,

We would like to first introduce ourselves as members of Project DREAM (Dover), WeSpeak (Portsmouth), and NAACP Seacoast Youth Council. Our club's mission is to provide intersectionality in our educational system and encourage student's voices. Not only has the past year enlarged the disconnection between students and teachers, but it has also unveiled and addressed the systematic racism in our country from the Black Lives Matter Movement to the Atlanta massacre of eight Asian Americans. These types of behaviors towards students of color have been overlooked for the past century. It is the responsibility of our educational system to plant the seeds of intersectionality in students. Which is why the HB544 bill is completely inappropriate and needs to be replaced by a bill encouraging an education that would have become taboo in the late 1900s.

New Hampshire's curriculum is already one sided towards the Western point of view and implementing the HB544 bill would either have none or a negative impact on students. Most of the racism students of color face are through microaggressions. Our clubs have joined together to create a list of them but a few notable ones are using the n-word or making fun of other cultures. Since most of the state's schools are predominantly white, there is a notion where a daily action has to be done a certain way. For example, Asian-American students have to be subject to eating chicken nuggets or hot dogs because other students consider their food to be weird or non-edible. While Black individuals can tend to feel degraded when teachers and students use tactless language by using the n-word or calling enslaved people as 'slaves'. These microaggressions are the product of the state's curriculum being one-sided and it impels students of color to fit into a certain standard of "whiteness".

There is a common theme where students pay attention to their grades rather than their lessons and it reflects the problems in our instruction. The point of our education is so teachers can provide young individuals an enlightenment where we use evidence and morals to form opinions instead of other's. When you ask a teacher if they learn similar material as when they were high school, the answer is most likely going to be yes. This is an issue because certain standards in our society change as innovation progresses. People are able to find out more information on a certain topic in a matter of a few seconds or learn the other side of their education system in a tiktok. They can find out that the 13th amendment did not necessary abolish slavery or Indigenous peoples were not allies of colonists. It leads students to believe the material they're learning to be misleading and creates more of an indifference in school.

Although supporters might say the HB544 bill is necessary and creates order in future generations, it will actually backfire because there is going to be a distrust between

students and their educational system as social media spreads news or between each other due to the ineptitude of being cognizant. What Project DREAM, We Speak, and NAACP Seacoast Youth Council is asking is for intersectionality in our instruction. We encourage you to consider curriculum changes whether that be books read in English or textbooks learned in history when evaluating funding. If you have any concerns or questions, we would be more than happy to have either a meeting or an email exchange with you.

Sincerely,  
Project DREAM, WeSpeak, and NAACP Seacoast Youth Council

### **Microaggressions:**

Amaya-

- Have had my hair touched, flicked, and yanked all without my permission
- Teacher allowed her students to use the n word in their paper (the teacher and the students were white)
- Teacher said that “dreadlocks are dirty”
- My name has gotten mixed up with the other biracial girl in our grade at least 20 times within the span of a few months
- Peer said that he would simply “combine our names” and then call us both by that name
- Teacher refused to refer “slaves” as “enslaved Africans”

DREAM

- Being called the n-word in class, teacher didn't respond (loud enough for them to hear)
- Been asked if other Black people in school are related
  - Same situation for Asian students
- Asked the question “Where are you *really* from”
- “Can you speak some of your language for me?”
- Comment- “wow, you speak English really well” (English is first language)
- Being called rare pokemon
- Comments about “your culture eats dogs”
- White students saying n-word
- White people staring at people of color
- Imitating accents
- Pulled eyes to make them look slanted
- Promoting stereotypes that asians are good at school



- Comment about personality being whitewashed (mixed student raised in white environment)
- Expected to behave in a certain way that aligns with stereotypes
  - Challenging to form a sense of identity when others have expectations of how you behave
- White person crosses the street to avoid walking by POC
- Racist jokes
  - Realizing that students of color use racial humor because they were exposed-internalized oppression
- Becoming desensitized to racism- expecting it daily as a part of the culture of the school
- Feeling pressured to behave a certain way to win the favor of white teachers and peers
- Hair being touched without permission
- White students get a tan during a vacation- comparing skin tones to a POC
- Assumption of race
- Body shape
- Assuming every Muslim is from the Middle East (the majority lives in Indonesia)
- People looking at a Muslim person whenever terrorism is talked about
- Making fun of people who listen to kpop, watches anime, or kdramas
- Making fun of the food we brought for lunch
- Not knowing India is part of Asia
- Assuming every Asian is Chinese
- Thinking racism ended after the civil war
- Thinking Abraham Lincoln or Martin Luther King ended racism

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Tom Luther <origamikerf@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 4:25 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1/HB2 support, testimony

I support the proposed amendments restricting the governors ability to indefinitely extend lockdowns.

I support reducing the education budget. Union government education is a proven failure. NH suffers gross incompetence at cruel prices. Covid has revealed the failure for all to see.

I support ESA by kid, and a return to competition in education

tom luther  
claremont, nh



**Town of Allenstown**  
16 School St.  
Allenstown, NH 03275  
603-485-4276 Ext. 112  
TA@allenstownnh.gov

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May 4, 2021

**Chair Daniels, Vice-Chair Reagan and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,**

I write on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and myself in opposition of HB 1 and HB 2 in their current forms. These budget bills must be amended or defeated in the best interest of property taxpayers in the State of New Hampshire. They do not go far enough in providing real property tax relief and are more like gadgets, or even shells being shifting around under the guise of providing tax relief. I think the Senate gets it based on several of the bills that I have seen submitted for inclusion in the budget. We hope you will take the time to read our thoughts on some of these bills as well as considering using a “hold harmless” concept for school funding.

I want to start by submitting to you a tax rate history of Allenstown attached to this document. I send this to show you what happens when the State shares revenues with the Town of Allenstown and Allenstown School Department. We provide property tax relief.

We have one the highest tax rates in the State, and while we are going through a development surge currently in Allenstown, that alone can't provide what is needed to provide significant property tax relief in Allenstown. We simply need State of New Hampshire's assistance.

Why? Simple, we have limited developable land left for new valuation (development) due to Bear Brook State Park taking up about half of our land mass.

Secondly, when the State balances its budget, it seems like the first things cut are revenues shared with the municipalities as well as the school systems. When these cuts happen, and then the economy gets better, these shared revenues are simply not restored, but rather those revenues are spent on new programs or tax cuts in other areas. Property Tax Relief is Tax Cuts for all. Relief for all our residents of our State and also the businesses in our communities. Restoration of sharing state revenues and properly funding our school systems should be a top priority in the State of New Hampshire!

Lastly, Allenstown's high tax rate makes it more difficult to compete with more valuation rich municipalities with lower tax rates for new development coming into the State. It is not impossible, but it is very, very difficult. We just don't have the land mass available for development or lakefront high value property to help lower our tax rate on our own, but we are trying to maximize the land that we have left to get the most value out of it in order to provide tax relief!

This Senate, at this time, has an opportunity to really make a difference in the State of New Hampshire and set a course for the future. An opportunity to finally start paying the municipalities their proper share of shared State revenues by restoring them to the levels they are supposed to be at, as well as, begin the process of making sure that education funds are targeted to the poorest communities in need; and thus silence the Claremont Decision critics and stop future lawsuits over

the issue of State funding of education. It was just reported that New Hampshire is dead last in the country in state support for education. Now is the time to make sure that does not continue, and that State funding is targeted to the school systems that need those funds the most.

With that said, there are several bills that I hope that you will consider as part of your deliberations on HB1 and HB 2. They will go far in providing property tax relief to the taxpayers in the State of New Hampshire as well as in the property poorest communities in the State.

The following bills and/or changes are supported and encouraged by the Allenstown Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator.

### **Education Funding**

First of all, SB 135 is a great start to help communities dealing with loss of State aid to education due to the pandemic's impact. Unfortunately, it does not go far enough in closing the gap needed to properly fund education in the State. In the House approved budget bills, they attempt to address property tax relief by cutting the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) and then budgeting \$100 million and distribute it back to the communities. This is troublesome for a couple of reasons. First under the House Budget, only 5% of this goes to the 20 poorest school systems in the State. Allenstown is one of those communities! This is a huge problem given the Claremont and recent court cases. Secondly, cutting the SWEPT ignores an important fact or rather flaw in education funding. The poorest communities are still going to have to raise the same amount as their SWEPT in order to fund their school systems at the proper levels. For the poorest schools, this isn't simply money mandated by the State to be raised; it is badly needed and removing it from the formula provides no relief to these school systems. It just means the local school tax rate will go up by the same amount as the SWEPT that was cut.

We encourage the Senate to take the lead in leaping forward in funding public education by keeping the SWEPT in place, perhaps even taking the bold step of redistributing it to the communities most in need.

**Even simpler for this year, just hold all communities harmless. Hold Harmless** meaning that no community will get less State Education Funding Grants than it did in the prior year. This would continue the ground that was made in the past year, when it comes to State education funding, rather than moving backwards.

### **SB99 Restoration of Meals and Rooms Tax to 40 %**

This is long overdue. I will be honest with you in saying that when I hear about new needed programs and tax cuts for business, I want to applaud them at times, but then I realize that the State still has "old bills" to pay. Those "old bills" are restoration of programs and/or rather State revenue sharing programs that were cut in the past due to State budget shortfalls, but quickly forgotten, and never paid, or restored to the proper levels. SB99 is long overdue, and we appreciate that it is being considered for the property taxpayers in New Hampshire. The facts are simple. Municipalities are supposed to get 40% of these revenues. Over the last 10 years, these revenues have grown by 67%. Yet the amount distributed to the municipalities has only been 17%. Property Taxpayers are residences and businesses. Passing this bill would provide property tax for all taxpayers in the State of New Hampshire. It is good policy for all!

### **SB72 State Funding of Retirement Costs**

This is another “old bill” that was cut back in 2013, and the full burden of these costs were placed on the property taxpayers. This would restore part of the State’s portion of these costs. Instead of paying 0% like now, and not 35% of the costs as it was before 2013; this would have the State pay 15% of the costs. We will gladly take this property tax relief for our residents and businesses in Allenstown!

### **SB127 Parts VII and VIII for State Aid Grants for new water systems**

Simply put lifting the moratorium and providing state aid grants for these projects would help Allenstown Sewer Users because we have a project that is just being completed to a pump station in town which is supposed to be partially funded by the State.

### **SB118 \$20 million in property tax relief**

The Allenstown Selectboard and myself have not reviewed this bill together; however, we appreciate all efforts at the state level to lower property tax burden on our taxpayers. I believe that there are higher priorities of achieving equitable property tax relief in New Hampshire which comes from passing the other bills and concepts above; however, if there are available funds, then please feel free to include this in the budget.

Finally, I close this testimony with a promise to you, the Senators on the Finance Committee. Allenstown takes property taxes seriously. We struggle with balancing our “needs” against our “wants”. “Needs” win out more often than “wants”. When the State provided money to Town of Allenstown and to the Allenstown School System in the last biennium budget, we lowered property taxes. Most of this aid listed above would help allow us to continue to pass on these property tax savings to our taxpayers, and I will fight to make sure it continues! We need your help to provide property tax relief, and we appreciate your consideration of the bills listed above.

Sincerely,



Derik Goodine  
Town Administrator

## Tax Rate History Chart

Tax Rate History

|      | Town Rate | Local School Rate | State School Rate | County | Total   |
|------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|---------|
| 2020 | \$9.62    | \$14.89           | \$2.03            | \$2.76 | \$29.30 |
| 2019 | \$9.68    | \$16.54           | \$2.09            | \$2.79 | \$31.10 |
| 2018 | \$10.12   | \$15.19           | \$2.10            | \$2.74 | \$30.15 |
| 2017 | \$10.04   | \$17.25           | \$2.08            | \$2.74 | \$32.11 |
| 2016 | \$11.36   | \$17.07           | \$2.44            | \$2.99 | \$33.86 |
| 2015 | \$11.31   | \$16.03           | \$2.48            | \$3.01 | \$32.83 |
| 2014 | \$11.66   | \$16.81           | \$2.28            | \$3.03 | \$33.78 |
| 2013 | \$10.35   | \$16.20           | \$2.36            | \$2.62 | \$31.53 |
| 2012 | \$9.30    | \$10.01           | \$2.39            | \$2.51 | \$24.21 |
| 2011 | \$7.93    | \$16.30           | \$2.34            | \$2.73 | \$29.30 |
| 2010 | \$7.61    | \$14.62           | \$2.50            | \$2.65 | \$27.38 |
| 2009 | \$7.94    | \$15.85           | \$2.47            | \$2.78 | \$29.04 |
| 2008 | \$6.38    | \$15.89           | \$2.36            | \$2.56 | \$27.19 |
| 2007 | \$5.59    | \$12.70           | \$2.38            | \$2.33 | \$23.00 |
| 2006 | \$5.57    | \$12.13           | \$2.36            | \$2.09 | \$22.15 |
| 2005 | \$4.84    | \$11.33           | \$2.42            | \$2.17 | \$20.16 |
| 2004 | \$4.26    | \$11.33           | \$2.56            | \$1.85 | \$20.00 |
| 2003 | \$4.30    | \$11.79           | \$4.03            | \$1.88 | \$22.00 |
| 2002 | \$5.84    | \$11.44           | \$4.66            | \$2.12 | \$24.06 |
| 2001 | \$5.83    | \$13.09           | \$5.24            | \$2.12 | \$26.28 |
| 2000 | \$7.87    | \$14.10           | \$5.82            | \$2.11 | \$29.90 |
| 1999 | \$10.32   | \$9.80            | \$6.94            | \$2.14 | \$29.20 |
| 1998 | \$9.36    | \$24.71           | N/A               | \$2.27 | \$36.34 |
| 1997 | \$10.11   | \$24.16           | N/A               | \$1.58 | \$35.85 |
| 1996 | \$10.60   | \$18.61           | N/A               | \$1.35 | \$30.56 |
| 1995 | \$9.72    | \$20.18           | N/A               | \$1.44 | \$31.34 |
| 1994 | \$10.08   | \$18.53           | N/A               | \$1.45 | \$30.06 |

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Ilana Cass <Ilana.Cass@hitchcock.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 5:29 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY: Protect New Hampshire's Family Planning Program

I am gravely concerned about the proposed HB1 and HB2 that include provisions amended into the budget that will impact reproductive health care in NH.

Specifically, I strongly encourage HB-1 to **include 9-month backfill funding for Family Planning to compensate for the gap in funds until federal funding via title X which will return to New Hampshire in Spring of 2022.** This program subsidizes no-cost and low-cost reproductive and sexual health care including well-person exams, cancer screenings, access to birth control, health counseling, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections that are directly responsible for keeping New Hampshire women and families healthy. I also strongly suggest that **HB2 be amended to remove the requirement for physical and financial separation of services of abortion services from other health care services. Our health care providers will not be able to comply with this requirement and will result in an already understaffed health care system having to close their doors to the women of New Hampshire.**

As a provider of health care to women for over 30 years, I believe this proposed legislation will harm the citizens of New Hampshire.

I am a resident of Hanover, New Hampshire in Grafton county.

*Ilana Cass*

Chair, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at The Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth  
VP, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Service Line at Dartmouth-Hitchcock  
Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology



A Culture of Caring

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Ellen Joyce <ejoyce1961@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 7:56 AM  
**To:** Bob Giuda; Chuck Morse; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Gary Daniels; Lou D'Allesandro; Debra Martone; John Reagan  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY: Protect New Hampshire's Family Planning Program

To members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am an obstetrician gynecologist, I have lived and worked in New Hampshire for 23 years. I currently work at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. I am the immediate past chair of the NH section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and an assistant professor at Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine.

I urge you to amend HB1 to include 9 month backfill funding for our state's Family Planning Program. Family planning is good medicine and good public health policy. Testing for and treating Sexually Transmitted Infections, screening for cancer and providing contraception are not only the right thing to do medically but also fiscally. I hope we can all agree that prevention and treatment of disease are good things, especially in a pandemic.

I also would ask you to remove from HB2 the requirement for a physical and financial separation of abortion services from other medical services. Comprehensive Reproductive Healthcare includes abortion care. To place this requirement only serves to harm those that are most vulnerable in our state. Limiting access and increasing the difficulty of accessing care is targeting vulnerable patients. To truly serve our patients there needs to be increased access and increased prevention, screening and treatment not limits and denials.

Thank you  
Ellen M Joyce, MD  
[ejoyce1961@gmail.com](mailto:ejoyce1961@gmail.com)  
Meriden, NH



## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Elizabeth Ropp <arunareiki@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 9:27 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB544

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The very notion that The State of New Hampshire could potentially dictate what is and is not appropriate discussion in educational environments is tyranny. If it were to pass, I would hope that citizens would invoke Article Ten of The New Hampshire Constitution, The Right to Revolution.

Sincerely,  
The Honorable Elizabeth Ropp

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Janet Casey <jancasey@gsinet.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 9:30 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SB130

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please do not allow SB130 to be included in the budget.  
Why?

Because it is insulting and demoralizing to Taxpayers and Voters that such a high priced bill should be swept in without the normal procedure. Let the elected officials we chose properly debate these big ticket issues according to procedure.

This is especially true in New Hampshire, a State that has yet to solve it's embarrassing, decades old reputation on fair school funding in the first place. If SB130, and others like it, were popular and fiscally sound they would not need to be shrouded in the budget, would they?

Thank you.

Janet Casey  
Dunbarton

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Vercauteren, Geoffrey <geoffrey.vercauteren@cmc-nh.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 10:32 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Behavioral Health Workforce - Letter to NH Legislators

Dear Representatives,

NH isn't facing a behavioral health provider crisis – we're in it now. Expanding and increasing behavioral health care, particularly for children and families is vitally important but it can't be accomplished without having a well-trained workforce to do it. Three important ways to accomplish this:

1. Restore funding for the Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) and make it a non-lapsing line item in the state budget. This program has real effects on increasing the workforce – particularly in rural and under-served communities:
  - a. For example: In 2019/2020 FY, 77 providers get approved to have their loans repaid in return for a 3 year service commitment. This includes: 10 MDs; 6 Psych RNs; 2 Psychologists; 20 licensed mental health and social work counselors; and 5 alcohol and drug counselors.
2. Increase Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement rates:
  - a. NH has the lowest reimbursement rate in the country. The rate has a direct effect on what behavioral health and healthcare providers can be paid. NH loses professionals to other states that can pay them significantly more. With the cost of living and housing going up in NH, it's hard to say that the state is affordable any longer. Pay rates need to keep pace.
3. Eliminate barriers for licensure for BH roles:
  - a. Some real progress has been made in this area, but more needs to be done especially around reciprocity with other states. When providers learn that having their license recognized in NH can take up to 6 months or sometimes even longer, they are more likely to take jobs in other states that have more streamlined reciprocity policies.
  - b. Having legislators work with the Office of Professional Licensure to assure that streamlined reciprocity rules are put in place would begin to get at this issue.

Legislators have the opportunity to strengthen NH's behavioral health workforce and position New Hampshire to be a model of capable and compassionate care.

Sincerely,

**Geoff Vercauteren**  
Director of Workforce Development  
Network4Health / Catholic Medical Center  
2 Wall Street, Suite 200  
Manchester, NH 03101  
Mobile: 603-851-9387  
[geoffrey.vercauteren@CMC-NH.org](mailto:geoffrey.vercauteren@CMC-NH.org)

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING 5/4/2021  
(Narrative version)

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to share my experiences and concern for improving the system of care for older adults in our state. I have served as the Chair of the State Committee on Aging (SCOA) in the past and am now at age 84 keeping in touch with the needs in our communities as a member of the New Hampshire Alliance for Healthy Aging.

I have written over 300 columns called *Age-Wise* for the Keene Sentinel with a focus on day to day concerns for long term care planning. Of particular note to your consideration today to increase Adult Day rates significantly is my passion to insure the continuation of this most necessary and critical service.

My personal belief in the value of Adult Medical Day Care comes from my past need for relief from care giving. The Alzheimer 's disease diagnosis in 2010 of my wife Norma, a 30 year RN at Monadnock Community Hospital in Peterborough, required my full time attention for over six years.

During those difficult years the Monadnock Family Services Adult Care Center program in Jaffrey came to my rescue, and provided quality medical, emotional and social care for both of us until it was clear that I could no longer keep her safe at home. She was admitted to a memory unit and died of the dreaded Alz in 2019.

I later learned of the financial costs of her care at the Adult Center. How could they have provided such support with a full staff and services on a daily reimbursement fixed rate of \$54.44, whether serving clients 4 or 12 hours per day? No wonder the agency had so many local fundraisers to try and stay afloat. I am even now more grateful for my respite and their quality care for my wife.

The inequity with nursing home rates nearly 4 times the current ADC rate is clear, but the mission to keep folks in the community and out of the institutional setting has been an objective for a long time. The lack of a substantial annual increase from the reimbursement rate of \$49.24 since 2007 has brought us to this crisis. **An increase to \$75.00 per day is needed to help keep our Adult Day Care center open.**

I am well aware of the long standing mission in the state to support cost-effective home and community based services. As a professional geriatric care manager and a founder of the Monadnock at Home unique model to keep people at home as long as possible, I also support the increases to the Choices for Independence (CFI) and restoration of the Governor's budget to support Senior center programs. Your understanding of the needs and desires of us older citizens, a growing percentage of the state population, is appreciated.

Dr. Owen R. Houghton 603-532-6970  
14 Colton Drive , Jaffrey NH 03452  
[nohoughton@myfairpoint.net](mailto:nohoughton@myfairpoint.net)

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING 5/4/2021  
(2 minute oral testimony)

Thank you for this opportunity. As Past Chair of the State Committee on Aging, I am here to seek your support to increase Adult Care rates.

My personal belief in the value of Adult Medical Day Care comes from my past need for relief from care giving. The Alzheimer's disease diagnosis in 2010 of my wife Norma, a 30 year RN at Monadnock Community Hospital in Peterborough, required my full time attention for over six years. During those difficult years the Monadnock Family Services Adult Care Center program in Jaffrey came to my rescue, and provided quality medical, emotional and social care for both of us.

After she died in 2019 I learned of the financial costs of her care at the Adult Center. How could they have provided such support with a full staff and services on a daily reimbursement fixed rate of \$54.44, whether serving clients 4 or 12 hours per day? The inequity with nursing home rates nearly 4 times the current ADC rate is clear, but the mission to keep folks in the community and out of the institutional setting has been an objective for a long time. The lack of a substantial annual increase from the reimbursement rate of \$49.24 since 2007 has brought us to this crisis. . **An increase to \$75.00 per day is needed to help keep our Adult Day Care center open.**

I am well aware of the long standing mission in the state to support cost-effective home and community based services. Your understanding of the needs and desires of us older citizens, a growing percentage of the state population, is appreciated.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Matt Endrizzi <matt.endrizzi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 11:35 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 and 2

Dear Ms. Martone,

I am disheartened by the tsunami of maneuvers by Republicans in New Hampshire to push through a voucher plan that would allow public tax dollars to be spent on private education. I am sympathetic to people who feel their children are being exposed to immoral behaviors in public schools. I have taught at two public high schools as well as St. Thomas Aquinas in Dover where I was also a Dean. I can assure you that similar moral dissuasion exists in both public and private systems. I am also sympathetic to people who are concerned about town budgets where public schools take up more than 50% of the pie. But I would suggest that the education of my neighbors is the best investment for long term prosperity. And is the plan to fund private schools at \$4000 per pupil instead of \$15-20,000 per pupil? Do you really think that will attract quality educators over the long haul? I have been teaching for 17 years. I have not met any educators seeking to indoctrinate children, unless you agree that nurturing a person to think critically for themselves is "indoctrination by the left."

If you are interested in a more unified society in any way, consider that public high school is really the only time an entire community comes to together regularly. Perhaps our efforts are better spent making that experience better for everyone instead of trying to suffocate it more than we already have.

I trust that these efforts from the right will continue well into the future. Indeed, there would be lots of money to be made off of monetized education - in the short term. What I hope legislators will consider is what their long-term goal is. I imagine voters supporting these voucher initiatives also agree defunding the police is an abhorrent idea. But I ask you, is defunding our schools better? Should we privatize police and fire fighters as well? Or the military? When it comes to bashing the government's inefficiencies, I don't hear conservative voices railing against police, fire fighters, and soldiers.

While you pontificate about the atrocities of "woke cancel culture," - and we should all be vigilante against any efforts to suppress free speech! - I ask you to reflect on your own speech. When you talk about this, are you angry and frustrated? Is your tone cynical? Do you feel morally superior to those with whom you disagree? Have you convinced yourself that the ends justify the means because we are fighting the Devil itself? Whether you are looking at this from the left or the right, please, be careful not to let your own plank blind your vision.

Sincerely,  
Matt Endrizzi  
(Registered Independent)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Linda Steir <lsteir@seniorclassnh.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 2:05 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** 5.4.21 Governor's Budget hearing & Adult Medical Day services

Dear Honorable Members of NH Senate Finance Committee,

I have owned and operated Senior Class Adult Day & Home Health Services in Hampstead, NH for 16 years. Part of my interest in opening this program came from my own personal experience. I have a daughter who is 34 and severely disabled as a result of contracting meningitis before there was a vaccine for it. She's smart and engaging, but unable to meet many of her own needs. Much like the elderly population we serve in Adult Day and Home Health. I was very involved with the NH Legislature and Department of Health & Human Services when the state prepared the community to support folks with developmental disabilities IN THEIR COMMUNITY when the only institution, Laconia State School, was closing. Parents like me knew our children could be better served in the community BUT a system of appropriate and adequately funded services need to be available. The State did a great job preparing our communities for this transition, and some 30 years later we now have a very successful system that is saving a lot of state and federal dollars and providing supports and services in a more dignified, desirable manner. When I opened Senior Class, I had a vision that the State could do for seniors in our communities what it had done for the developmentally disabled BUT instead of having to move people out of costly, less dignified institutional settings, could provide services that prevented some more costly placements.

Our cost-per-day to serve an individual in our Adult Day program is approximately \$85/day. Our private pay day rate is \$100/day. The Medicaid reimbursement rate is \$54.44/day. I'm sure you will hear stories about the handful or more Adult Day programs in NH that have been forced to close in the last 5 years because Medicaid reimbursement rates along with what they could reasonable charge the VA or private pay did not generate sufficient operating revenue. Neighboring states have much higher Medicaid Adult Day rates. Unlike other medical services providers, I have NEVER turned away a person who need my services, regardless of the source of funding. Many doctors offices, dental practices, etc. start waiting lists for Medicaid patients due to reimbursement rates. Not me and probably not any other Adult Day program in NH because we are who we are and do what we do from, perhaps, a different point of view.

Please support the Governor's budget request for an additional \$4.0 million in the state budget for Adult Medical Day services and PLEASE contact me at (603)329-4401 if you want to discuss this further.

Most sincerely,

Linda Steir  
Senior Class Adult Day & Home Health Services  
Hampstead, NH



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Dick Powell <trpowell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 3:33 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Liz Tentarelli  
**Subject:** HB1 Hearing Tuesday May 4th

Dear Debra,

I wish to state my objection to HB1.

I support our NH Constitution that forbids taxpayer funds to be allocated to private schools. And I object to the way this bill has been inserted into the budget! This seems to be an underhanded way to get around normal procedure.

Please register my opposition to NH funding private schools.

I am not opposed to private schools, having graduated from one, but I think private funds should pay for private schools and not taxpayers' money. The public school system in our country has been foundational and we must not weaken its support.

Thank you for your willingness to record testimony for the Committee. I oppose HB 1

Mrs. Margaret E. Powell in Hanover



18 Loudon Rd #3477, Concord, NH 03302 | [www.nhhungersolutions.org](http://www.nhhungersolutions.org)

May 3, 2021

Chairman Gary Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

By Email

Re: HB 2

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

NH Hunger Solutions is a NH non-profit that advocates to end child hunger in the Granite State. On Behalf of NH Hunger Solutions, I am writing to urge the committee to replace the SWEPT cut with changes to the education funding formula to ensure that, during this next biennium, each city and town receives a total education grant that is no less than the grant it received in the prior year. This will ensure that communities can support their students and help to assure that children can be fed at school during the 2021-22 school year.

School districts' decisions to learn remotely in the 2020-21 school year had an enormous impact on students grades K-12 and their access to school meals. During this time, the USDA implemented waivers that allowed school meals to be free for all students up to the age of 18. Even with this in place barriers like transportation, health safety, ability to pick up meals during times offered, knowledge of school meal programs, and language, prevented many NH children from being able to access meals normally available to them during the school day.

While the NH economy is improving, we know that 1 in 6 NH Households are still food insecure, with 68,000 households reporting that they had difficulty getting enough food, and 26,000 adults reporting that children in their household weren't eating enough because the household could not afford enough food.

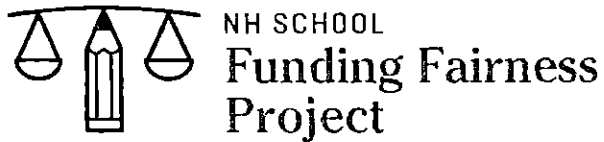
Pandemic-related changes to enrollment and school meal eligibility threaten to undercount students and underfund school budgets in the years ahead. This means that many school districts face a terrible choice between feeding many more hungry children through the USDA pandemic waivers and potentially facing reduction in SWEPT because they lack free and reduced meal numbers or going back to pre-pandemic counting methods that leave many children hungry.

We urge you to include language in the budget that ensures each city and town receives a total education grant that is no less than the grant it received in the prior year.

Children's access to school meals is not just good for child health, it's also good for education outcomes and for our state's economy. We know that when children eat at school, they are 20% more likely to graduate high school and that high school graduates earn \$10,000 or more a year than students who do not graduate.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gorhan, MPH  
Deputy Director  
NH Hunger Solutions



**Testimony of Jeff McLynch,  
Project Director, NH School Funding Fairness Project, on HB 1 & 2  
before the Senate Finance Committee, Tuesday, May 4**

Chairman Daniels, Senator D'Allesandro, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on HB 1 and 2, better known as the FY 2022-23 budget.

For the record, my name is Jeff McLynch and I am the Project Director of the New Hampshire School Funding Fairness Project, a nonprofit organization that educates citizens and policymakers about New Hampshire's school funding system, builds awareness of the shortcomings of that system, and advocates for changes in law to make that system more fair for students and taxpayers alike.

I come before you today to urge you to make several significant changes to the version of the FY22-23 budget that the House of Representatives sent to you, changes not only to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not have adverse consequences for school finances or for local property taxpayers, but also to preserve the progress that the Legislature made in the current budget in bolstering education aid and targeting it to those cities and towns most in need.

While the focus of the proposed budget is the provision of public services in each of the next two years, it is important to acknowledge at the outset that, when it comes to school funding, two fundamental injustices have been allowed to persist in New Hampshire for at least several decades. Despite a clear constitutional mandate, far too many of our children continue to face deep and enduring inequities in the educational opportunities available to them, diminishing not only their futures, but that of the Granite State as a whole. At the same time, enormous disparities in the property taxes paid by residents and businesses in different communities pose oftentimes insuperable barriers to economic security and development.

Indeed, a study conducted last year by the American Institutes for Research for the Commission to Study School Funding confirmed that New Hampshire's:

*"...current [school funding] system is inequitable from both student and taxpayer perspectives. The districts serving the highest proportion of students who are economically disadvantaged spend less, on average, compared with districts serving the fewest such students. Moreover, the districts with the least property wealth per student impose the highest local education tax rates to be able to fund their children's education."*

Unless the Committee acts to improve HB 1 and 2, the challenges before New Hampshire's public schools – and the students, families, and communities they serve – will be even more severe in the coming biennium. More specifically, according to data from the Office of the Legislative Budget Assistant and the Department of Education, due to the pandemic and the termination of additional aid and fiscal capacity disparity aid, state education aid is expected to fall, in total, by roughly \$90 million between FY 2021 and FY 2022. Though the full scope of the fiscal consequences is not yet known, with the announcement by the US Department of Agriculture last month that it will extend food assistance waivers through summer 2022, much of this problem is expected to persist into FY 2023 as well.

To expand upon the sources of this decline, two of the key determinants of the amount of state education aid a district receives are the number of students it serves generally and the number of low-income students it serves in particular (as measured by the number of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch). Critically, the vast majority of school districts in New Hampshire have seen those numbers decline in the current 2020-21 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendance has dropped generally, as parents have elected to educate their children on their own or to pursue other alternatives in the face of uncertainty about remote or hybrid learning; the reported number of children eligible for free and reduced price lunch has likewise dropped, not because of declines in food insecurity, but because of efforts the federal government has made to ease the delivery of food assistance.

More specifically, the Department of Education's November 15 estimates suggest that attendance has declined by about 4 percent overall over the past year; while the long-term trend has been toward declining enrollments, a 4 percent drop is particularly steep. Those estimates also point to a roughly 24 percent decrease in the count of free and reduced price lunch students; those figures may fluctuate from year to year, but, during times of economic hardship, one would normally expect them to rise, not fall.

Yet, because of a time lag in New Hampshire's education aid formula, barring changes in law, those temporarily lower numbers will be used to decide the amount of state aid districts will receive in 2021-22, even as the pandemic wanes and schools return to the schedules and settings that existed prior to its onset.

In addition, as you will recall, the budget agreement reached in the fall of 2019 added two elements to New Hampshire's funding formula for FY 2021: additional aid, which is intended to assist cities and towns with higher concentrations of low-income students, and fiscal capacity disparity aid, which is designed to help municipalities with comparatively low property values. Together, those two forms of aid delivered nearly \$60 million to struggling schools this year. By law, though, those two forms of aid will no longer be available at the close of the current biennium. From NHSFFP's perspective, as these two forms of aid begin to take steps toward addressing some of the flaws inherent in New Hampshire's current approach to funding its schools, they should be extended and maintained until more comprehensive reforms are adopted.

Nevertheless, the versions of House Bills 1 and 2 that the House of Representatives approved on April 7 – that is, the versions that are before the Committee today – failed not

only to begin to rectify the school funding injustices that have plagued New Hampshire for so long, but also to respond appropriately to the difficulties created by the pandemic and by expiring law. While HB 2, in its current form, does contain provisions intended to mitigate the effect on school finances of temporarily lower numbers of students completing the paperwork for free and reduced price meals, it only does part of the job, closing just \$17 million of the expected \$90 million gap in FY 2022. Worse still, though HB 2, as passed by the House, identifies an additional \$100 million for use by the Education Trust Fund in FY 2023, it devotes those funds to a reduction in the statewide education property tax (or SWEPT), rather than targeting greater assistance to those communities most in need, whether because they have comparatively low property values or because they have relatively high concentrations of low-income students. Only about 1.5 percent of that proposed SWEPT reduction would be realized in the 10 most property-poor communities in the state (as measured by equalized valuation per pupil or EVPP), places such as Charlestown, Newport, and Haverhill.

Consequently, I would urge the Committee to strengthen the proposed budget significantly before it is considered by the full Senate. In particular, I would urge the Committee to remove the proposed \$100 million reduction in the SWEPT and, instead, to insert provisions along the lines of those found in HB 623, which was introduced earlier this session by Representative David Luneau of Hopkinton.

HB 623's approach is simple and clear. It compares districts' FY 2021 education grants to their expected FY 2022 grants and provides them with the greater amount; it would do the same in FY 2023 as well. As a result, not only would such provisions prevent pandemic-induced changes in enrollment from adversely affecting education aid, but they would also support higher-need districts by effectively continuing to provide additional aid and fiscal capacity disparity aid.

To be sure, the Senate has previously adopted, by a unanimous 24-0 vote in mid-February, legislation that would address approximately half of the anticipated \$90 million school funding shortfall in the coming year. That bill, SB 135, aims to protect against the COVID-19 pandemic's possible impact on school finances by directing the Department of Education to use the higher of a district's or town's 2019-2020 average daily membership in attendance (ADM-A) or 2020-2021 ADM-A in calculating state education aid. However, as written, the changes the bill contains are limited strictly to FY 2022. Therefore, if the Committee intends to incorporate SB 135 into its version of the FY22-23 budget, I would urge Senators to extend its effect into FY 2023. With the recent announcement by the USDA that it will extend a number of waivers related to school meals through the end of June 2022, it seems likely that the free and reduced price meal eligibility counts used to determine state education aid will remain depressed for another year and thus have the potential to hold down that aid throughout FY 2023.

Finally, as the members of the Committee are likely aware, in anticipation of a substantial decline in state education aid in the next biennium, many cities and towns have already turned to significant property tax increases or sizable spending cuts in setting their school budgets for the next academic year. Strengthening HB 1 and 2 in the manner I've described here could help to reduce the need for, and the potential scale of, such changes. Just as importantly, municipalities do have the authority to revisit those decisions should additional state education aid become available. Of note, RSA 197:3-a stipulates that:

*"In response to statutory changes resulting in reductions or increases in distribution of state revenues for education ... which would take effect after the adoption of a new school district budget and would apply in the fiscal year covered by the new budget, the governing body of a school district may, after consultation with the budget committee, call a special meeting of the legislative body to consider a reduction, rescission, or increase of appropriations made at an annual meeting..."*

It is imperative that the Legislature send a clear signal to all municipalities as quickly as possible, so that they can ready themselves for such meetings.

In closing, while the school funding problem in the current budget may amount to tens of millions of dollars in each year of the biennium, New Hampshire has long fallen hundreds of million of dollars short, on an annual basis, of meeting its obligations to provide an adequate education to every child in the state. Solving the problem at hand is urgent and necessary, but the time to recast the system as a whole, so that all Granite State families are treated more equitably, is well past due. NHSFFP hopes that the Senate will take decisive action on these issues in the current budget and stands ready to work with all Senators to build a more just school funding and property tax system in the years ahead.

I thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today and would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Amy Paris <amyeparis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 3:43 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY: Protect New Hampshire's Family Planning Program

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee and Governor Sununu,

My name is Amy Paris. I live in Hanover, NH, and I am an Obstetrician-Gynecologist with specialty training and practice in Family Planning. I'm writing today in opposition to both HB1 and HB2, specifically because of the impact this budget would have on the Family Planning Program.

The NH Family Planning program provides critical services to patients who are uninsured or who have lower incomes – this type of care includes well-person exams, STD testing and treatment, birth control, and cancer screening. Through the Family Planning Program, our state government demonstrates its priority to ensure Granite Staters protect access to this care for all, no matter where they live, or what their individual circumstance may be.

In HB2, the language included to require reproductive health centers to have physical and financial separation between abortion care and all other care is an unnecessary and burdensome requirement. As you know, our state family planning funds already do not cover abortion. Imagine an analogous piece of legislation telling hospitals they could not prescribe high blood pressure medicine and perform colonoscopies in the same facility—that would be absurd. This requirement does nothing to improve patient safety and instead will place financial strain on our safety net health centers, which are already strained to the brink of closure by the pandemic. I urge you to amend HB2 to remove this harmful language – please keep the Granite Staters who rely on this program in mind as you work on the state budget.

The proposed budget also drastically underfunds the program, ignoring the fact that federal funding for Title X will not be available for at least nine months. In the last budget cycle, I was happy to see a bipartisan group of lawmakers, as well as Governor Sununu, make sure to cover the loss of federal funds that occurred due to the domestic gag rule. I ask that you include funding in HB1 to ensure there is no gap in funding between July and March 2022.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amy E. Paris, MD, MS

Hanover, NH



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Mike Skibbie <mikes@drcnh.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 4:22 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Kuenning, Keith; Susan Paschell; DeJoie, John; Jake Berry; Devon Chaffee; mwangerin@nhla.org; Senator Jeb Bradley  
**Subject:** Sununu Center sections of House Bill 2  
**Attachments:** SYSC memo Morse Bradley apr 23 2021.pdf

Dear Senator Daniels and members of the Finance Committee:

I am writing to pass along a copy of a memorandum addressing House Bill 2's sections regarding the potential closure of the Sununu Youth Services Center during the next biennium. This memorandum was addressed to Senators Morse and Bradley as a follow-up to an April 14 meeting between the Senators, John DeJoie and Keith Kuenning of Waypoint, and myself. After the meeting, the members of the Juvenile Reform Project had a series of meetings about possible approaches to SYSC closure (Project members include Waypoint, New Hampshire Legal Assistance, New Futures, the Disability Rights Center, and ACLU-NH). We also sought input from Moira O'Neill, the Child Advocate, although we are not representing this as a plan that is endorsed by her. Please note that the memorandum has been previously provided to DCYF Director Ribsam and Ms. O'Neill.

Please feel free to contact me or any other member of the Juvenile Reform Project (copied on this email) about this or any other matter regarding juvenile justice reform.

Thank you for considering our input.

Mike Skibbie

Michael Skibbie  
Policy Director  
Disability Rights Center – New Hampshire  
64 N Main Street, Suite 2, 3rd Floor  
Concord, NH 03301-4913  
Direct Dial (603) 410 5197  
603-228-0432 Ext. 135  
1-800-834-1721 Voice and TDD  
603-225-2077 Fax  
NH Relay: 1-800-735-2964  
Cell: (603) 568-5093  
[www.drcnh.org](http://www.drcnh.org)

To: Senator Morse and Senator Bradley  
From: Juvenile Reform Project<sup>1</sup>  
Date: April 23, 2021  
Re: House Bill 2 provisions related to Sununu Youth Services Center  
CC: Moira O'Neill, Child Advocate  
Joseph Ribsam, Director, DCYF

.....  
As a follow-up to our meeting last week, we have developed the following outline of an approach to the closure of SYSC and a transition to a different facility. The suggested approach is intended to:

- 1) reduce the reliance on the commission process in the House-passed version of HB 2 (see section 365),
- 2) provide for a new or newly refitted facility for a small number of minors following closure of the SYSC building,
- 3) place additional limitations on eligibility for admission to the new facility, and
- 4) provide a beginning basis for the development of a cost estimate for construction of the new facility.

**1. Summary Timeline**

- |                    |                                                                                               |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. <u>Jan 2022</u> | end of 4 strikes admissions, HB 254 dispositional limitations become effective <sup>2</sup> . |
| b. <u>Mar 2022</u> | HB 254 detention limitations become effective.                                                |
| c. <u>Dec 2022</u> | SYSC admissions further limited.                                                              |
| d. <u>Jul 2023</u> | Completion of new facility; no further occupancy of SYSC building.                            |

**2. Adoption of statutory language for the first phase of restricted admission to SYSC**

- a. Based on current HB2 section 361 with additional elimination of present provisions allowing for commitment of repeat minor offenders.

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<sup>1</sup>Members include ACLU-NH, Disability Rights Center-NH, New Hampshire Legal Assistance, New Futures, and Waypoint

<sup>2</sup> HB 254, relative to the placement of minors in secure settings, includes significant new limitations on eligibility for confinement at SYSC. It is retained in the House Finance Committee and its principal components are in HB 2, sections 359-361.

- b. Only serious violent offenders would be eligible.
- c. Beginning in January 2022

**3. DHHS Evaluation and Planning responsibilities**

- a. Utilizing an interdisciplinary assessment team, evaluate the current SYSC population to ensure success of expected diversion from SYSC.
- b. Plan for capacity and configuration of SYSC successor facility
  - i. Capacity no more than 12.
  - ii. Informed by above evaluation of SYSC population and expected change in population eligible for confinement at successor facility.
  - iii. Utilize an advisory group composed of the Chair of Senate Judiciary, the Chair of House Children and Family Law, DCYF juvenile justice and protective service leadership, the Child Advocate, advocacy organizations such as the DRC and Waypoint, law enforcement, an expert in residential care, and a professional with experience closing a children's prison.

**4. Adoption of statutory language imposing second phase of restricted admission to SYSC or successor facility.**

- a. Effective December 2022.
- b. Serious cases related to transfer to adult criminal justice system.
  - i. Minors subject to adult certification petitions.
  - ii. Minors certified and awaiting adult trial.
  - iii. Minors sentenced to adult jail or prison following certification.
  - iv. Certification statute to be modified so that it is only available for offenses which would make the minor eligible for confinement at SYSC or successor facility.
- c. Minors eligible for confinement would only be those subject to petitions alleging:
  - i. first degree murder
  - ii. second degree murder
  - iii. manslaughter
  - iv. attempted murder
  - v. first degree assault
  - vi. aggravated felonious sexual assault
  - vii. kidnapping
  - viii. robbery punishable as a class A felony
  - ix. burglary while armed or involving the infliction of bodily harm under RSA 635:1
  - x. arson punishable as a felony
- d. Short-term detention (not to exceed 7 days total for the life of the case) for any other charge which could be subject to a detention order on November 31, 2022 (the day before these strict admission limitations go into effect).

- 5. Refit of existing facility or construction of new facility**
- a. Facility should be sufficiently secure for the population and based on a home-like or dormitory-like structure to create a normative environment for conditioning to normative living.
  - b. to be completed no later than July 1, 2023.
  - c. capacity not more than 12.
  - d. cost estimates
    - i. **\$2.8m**, based on commercial cost document at <https://www.rsmeans.com/model-pages/jail>.
      1. 9200 square feet (SYSC square footage per bed).
      2. construction cost of \$300 per square foot.
    - ii. **\$3.1m**, based on BJA Juvenile Facility Design publication at <https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/juvfacdesign.pdf>.
      1. Assume 850 square feet per resident.
        - a. 700-850 square feet per resident for “longer term care” which would be 8,400 to 10,200 square feet.
        - b. “Smaller facilities generally have more square feet per resident than larger facilities since they do not benefit from economies of scale”.
      2. Assume construction cost of \$300 per square foot.
        - a. “In 2003, medium secure juvenile facility construction costs average between \$175 and \$210 per square foot, though costs beyond these ranges are not unusual.”
    - iii. **\$5.3m**, based on Vermont cost estimate<sup>3</sup> for new 6-bed 7,805 square foot facility including site work, architectural, inflation, bonding, etc.
- 6. Closure and disposal of SYSC**
- a. No further occupancy after July 1, 2023.
  - b. HB2 sec. 364 calls for closure by July 1, 2022.
  - c. \$1.4m appropriation for the general purpose of closing the Sununu youth services center and related activities. These contingency funds may be used for contract amendments, retention incentive packages, employee retraining, and other expenses as necessary. See HB2 sec 369.

Please let us know if you have questions or if we can further assist the Senate in its consideration of this issue.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Leg-Report\\_Long-term-Plan-Combined\\_V3.pdf](https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Leg-Report_Long-term-Plan-Combined_V3.pdf)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Susan McKeown <swmckeown48@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 5:26 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 and 2

Dear Senator Martone;

I am concerned that this budget proposal does include needed funding for some public health priorities, including children's behavioral health services and higher Medicaid reimbursement rates for health care providers. It also does not address the needs of Granite State families as we recover from the pandemic. As a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner for 41 years, I cared for the lower income, inner city population that is most affected by the cuts that the House is proposing.

As a Certified Prevention Specialist, I am concerned about Family Resource Centers and primary prevention programs, tobacco prevention and cessation, and student loan repayment for healthcare professionals not being addressed. Proposals to abolish the enforcement division of the Liquor Commission and banning dissemination of unconscious bias material related to sex and race threaten to undermine our citizens.

I am pleased that the Governor and Senate leaders have voiced their concerns over the House budget, and hope we will invest more in behavioral health prevention, treatment, and recovery programs; children's behavioral health services; and early childhood supports, among other areas. These areas have long term benefits to our children.

Thank you for your work.

Susan McKeown :)

Susan McKeown APRN, CPS, MFA  
Author/Speaker on marriage and healthy relationships:  
[Beyondthefirstdance.com](http://Beyondthefirstdance.com)  
F.A.S.T.E.R. Facilitator -Manchester  
Tel: 603-668-4859 Cell: 603-860-9809



May 4, 2021

Chairman Gary Daniels  
Members of the NH Senate Finance Committee  
Re: neutral HB 1, HB 2

Dear Chairman Daniels and members of the NH Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for your ongoing service to Granite Staters. ABLE NH urges you to 1.) fully support the budget for the developmental disability community, and to go beyond it; — 2.) to include **full funding for a Medicaid adult dental benefit** which is listed as a “priority need” in the State office of Medicaid; as well as the 3.) In-Home Supports waiver, the Choices for Independence waiver and the Acquired Brain Disorder waiver.

Thank you to the NH Senate for its unanimous support for SB 150. Your wisdom understands that now is the time to reverse “penny wise and pound foolish” healthcare policies which significantly contribute to people with disabilities experiencing the poorest health outcomes of any identified population in America. As you have previously heard from ABLE NH: the data is clear that people with poor oral health struggle to secure employment among the many consequences of poor oral health. People with disabilities already face discrimination in our society from potential employers who believe the myth that people with disabilities are not quite worthwhile employees. As a population, people with disabilities experience the highest rates of poverty of any identified group in part due to these types of myths. Which employer is going to hire a person with a disability whose mouth is full of decay and in periods of pain? If NH is interested in raising rates of employment as well as improving health outcomes and lowering healthcare costs for people with disabilities, we must finally provide the funds for fiscally sound and comprehensive oral healthcare in NH.

As you know, RSA 171 A mandates that the NH Legislature fully fund the adult developmental disability service system. People with disabilities must have the support they are entitled to in order to participate in the American dream, to share their strengths and talents, to work, and be robustly engaged in their home communities.

Again, please 1.) fully fund all the Medicaid waivers, and 2.) fully fund a Medicaid adult dental benefit. If you have any questions, please contact ABLE NH.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa D. Beaudoin", is written over a horizontal line.

Lisa D. Beaudoin, Executive Director

2 ½ Beacon Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301 [www.ablenh.org](http://www.ablenh.org) 603-878-0459

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Committee,

Good afternoon, my name is Ann Sanok and I live in Exeter, NH. I am one of the 15,000 families in the state that relies on the area agency system. I am asking you to support the developmental services budget in HB 1 and the people that carry out the work.

My son Alex is almost 26 and has been supported by One Sky since he was about 16. He presently lives in a group home in Madison NH which is up near North Conway which is qualified to provide intensive behavioral services. These supports are needed for individuals – and there are many who may engage in extreme behaviors –, prone to aggression or violence, breaking things, excessive rocking or noises. Some are non-verbal or physically impaired as well. Some have extreme OCD or anxiety. They typically cannot tolerate much stimulation and need one on one supervision. They are unable to drive, many can't read or write and most of the more challenged population will never work.

A lot of people want to frame autism as a positive thing to be celebrated. I do not. Its, quite frankly, a nightmare a nightmare for many and that “many” is usually the forgotten group – the ones with the most profound disabilities. For the more profoundly impacted, it's a life sentence for the child and the parent that could be crippling physically, emotionally and financially.

Before the pandemic, our state's first lady, Valerie Sununu held a number of meetings with families of developmentally disabled – autism, Down syndrome and other intellectual conditions. Ms. Sununu identified a number of issues that as priorities – such as housing, employment, pay for staff, transportation. She wanted to see what folks thought was most important, so that the group could narrow its focus on to one issue. The #1 the issue of overwhelming concern: What Happens When I Die?

That is why I am here. I am asking you: Do not forget the forgotten. I am asking you to not only support this budget but to support the cause and lives of these citizens. They deserve the same liberties and freedoms that we do but they need your helping hand to live a life that is going to be very different than yours, but that which will be safe, meaningful and rich in its own way.

My son is in a small group home. Its not perfect, but at least he has someplace. The budgets are razor thin, the staff is underpaid, and often minimally trained. There are no video cameras to document what happens while families leave far away. .

But I've learned, one cannot place the bar too high. If you dropped your toddler or grandchild off at pre-school or grade school and the teacher said, wait minute, I need you to sign 5 criminal

waivers for our staff. You might think twice about leaving your child there. I can't do that. I sign the waivers.

I remember someone from an agency at the state boasting that NH doesn't have any "institutions" anymore where the developmentally disabled were historically housed. Honestly, this was nothing to brag about. Because now we have almost nothing. Dismantling institutions certainly had its benefits, but with no replacement for the core group that needed those places, we are back in medieval days. We used to warehouse them in Laconia, or Lakeview. Now we warehouse them at home with aging parents who must live besieged by aggression and instability, have locks on their refrigerators, a declining inventory of furniture as things get broken and destroyed. And if that is impossible, or the parents die, they might get sent over 1,000 miles away to Florida. Out of sight out of mind I guess.

It's was a very treacherous and painful path to getting a placement here in NH. After spending 28 days in the Exeter ER, my guy was initially was sent to a facility in Massachusetts. What happened there? He was attacked by a staff member and physically assaulted/abuse on more than one occasion. An individual was arrested. After 2 years, NH created a placement for him in state.

I think NH can do better. We know better. Lets not pass things off anymore.

I urge you to not only fully fund the developmental services budget but to learn more about this system and the unique, amazing, loving people you will help by doing so.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Ann Sanok  
Exeter, NH  
603-772-2551  
Annsanok@comcast.net



May 4, 2021

Bill Number: HB 1-A

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Emily Nester and I live in Newport New Hampshire. I am asking for the committee and legislature to fully support HB 1-A and fund Developmental Services in the budget. My son Crosby is served by Pathways of the River Valley through early supports and services.

Our family's experience with Pathways began in December of 2019. Crosby was 4 and a half months old, and had shown signs of a genetic disorder since his birth in early August of 2019. There were no red flags or causes of concern before Crosby's birth, so when we were told in the hospital that Crosby had several markers of a genetic disorder, our world was forever changed. As the weeks progressed, we felt like we were presented with more questions than answers; what needs would our son have? What supports were available? What does his future hold? It became clear that while Crosby had many strengths, he also would require support and early intervention services. It is through Pathways that Crosby has gotten essential therapies since he qualified for an IFSP in January of 2020. The services and tools that have been provided through Pathways have been invaluable to our son, and the early intervention that he has been provided with is no doubt the reason why he has made the growth that he has already made. Crosby has gotten support in gross motor skills, fine motor skills, feeding, and speech and language through Pathways. Without these supports from such an early age, I'm not sure where my son would be, but with the therapies, tools, and services provided by Pathways, my Crosby is walking, playing blocks with his older sister, and being introduced to simple sign language.

Funding developmental services and early intervention is essential for so many families in our state. As a public school teacher, I know that sometimes early intervention makes the difference between a student requiring Special Education services at school, or not. For my son, and for so many families in New Hampshire, I implore the committee to vote to fully fund developmental services as a part of HB 1-A.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter,

Emily Nester  
80 Laurel St.  
Newport, New Hampshire  
emilynester27@gmail.com



## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Jean <jlewando@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 8:39 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John.Regan111@gmail.com; Lou D'Allesandro; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove "divisive concepts" language from budget

Dear Finance Committee:

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to remove the "divisive concepts" language from the budget bill. This is an infringement of free speech, gross government overreach, and has no business being in a budget bill in the first place. The idea that concepts can be divisive is nonsense; it sounds like something one might find in Mao's "Little Red Book," which outlined what was and wasn't proper to speak about in a society that valued orderly conformity over messy conversations about difficult topics. In a state that values living free so much, it's unimaginable that this kind of official definition of what's acceptable to teach or even discuss could become law.

Sincerely,

Jean Lewandowski  
Ward 5, Nashua

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Kate Kerman <kkerman@phoenixfarm.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 1, 2021 10:34 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 2

I specifically object to the inclusion of the amendment to the budget which would stifle any conversation about so-called "divisive concepts." This is such a blow to democratic process and to the possibility of working creatively to end the racism in our society.

Kathryn Kerman

350 Troy Road

Marlborough, NH 03455

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Sal <sally.blanchette@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 1, 2021 11:18 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone; Gary Daniels  
**Cc:** John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; socallaghan@gatewayscs.org  
**Subject:** Senate Finance committee HB 1 testimony  
**Attachments:** Blanchette Family.jpg

05/01/2021

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Committee,

Good afternoon, my name is Sarah Blanchette and I live in Wilton, NH. I am asking you to support the developmental services budget in HB 1 and the people that carry out the work. My daughter is supported by Gateways Community Services through Family Support.

My daughter Amelia had a stroke at birth on September 2, 2007, and had a grade 3/4 intraventricular hemorrhage which was discovered by myself and my husband noticing slight tremors. She was whisked away to Dartmouth Medical center and then later developed hydrocephalus and needed a shunt placed when she was 1 month old. She was followed by an area agency at this point until she was 3 years old, and they would come to our home and do OT and PT with her to ensure developmental milestones were being met. The agency providers were instrumental in assisting us in how to care for Amelia and what to look out for and who to contact.

Fast forward a few years and Amelia started having seizures more frequently and was diagnosed with epilepsy. The specific type of epilepsy was rare and it affects learning and development. Amelia actually regressed which is typical and needed a lot of assistance at school and in her daily activities. Gateways evaluated our situation and determined that she qualified for family support services.

Through the family support services, we have been grateful to have an assigned Gateways staff that always keeps us in the loop with any agency fun events and helps remind us of the assistance they can provide which we take advantage of. Amelia has attended various summer day camps and received voice lessons and therapeutic horseback riding lessons with the financial assistance of family support. She is able to be happy doing things she enjoys and make friends with others with similar interests. We have participated in a few Gateways sponsored Chunky's movie nights which we loved to go out and have fun meeting others through the agency! During the Covid 19 pandemic, Gateways has held creative virtual events to help kids feel connected, like Valentine's day parties and dance parties.

We also take advantage of the respite reimbursement through Gateways which allows me to do things for myself and allows me the peace of mind that Amelia is well cared for in this time. Amelia is 13 years old now and in middle school with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The school team has already initiated the conversations about what the future will look like and what we want to see for Amelia. Our Family Support liason has attended many IEP meetings with us and has been extra helpful in designing an education plan appropriate for Amelia. We are going to really lean on Gateways to help with the transition out of high school and into adulthood in a few years.

Diversity Equity and Inclusion is a huge topic right now for many employers and people in the country. Only by fully supporting and funding programs that help include people with disabilities can we start making more progress for DE&I.

For all of these reasons above - I urge you to fully fund the developmental services budget. I also challenge you to find **more** funds to add to the budget as this is so important to my daughter and **MANY** more.

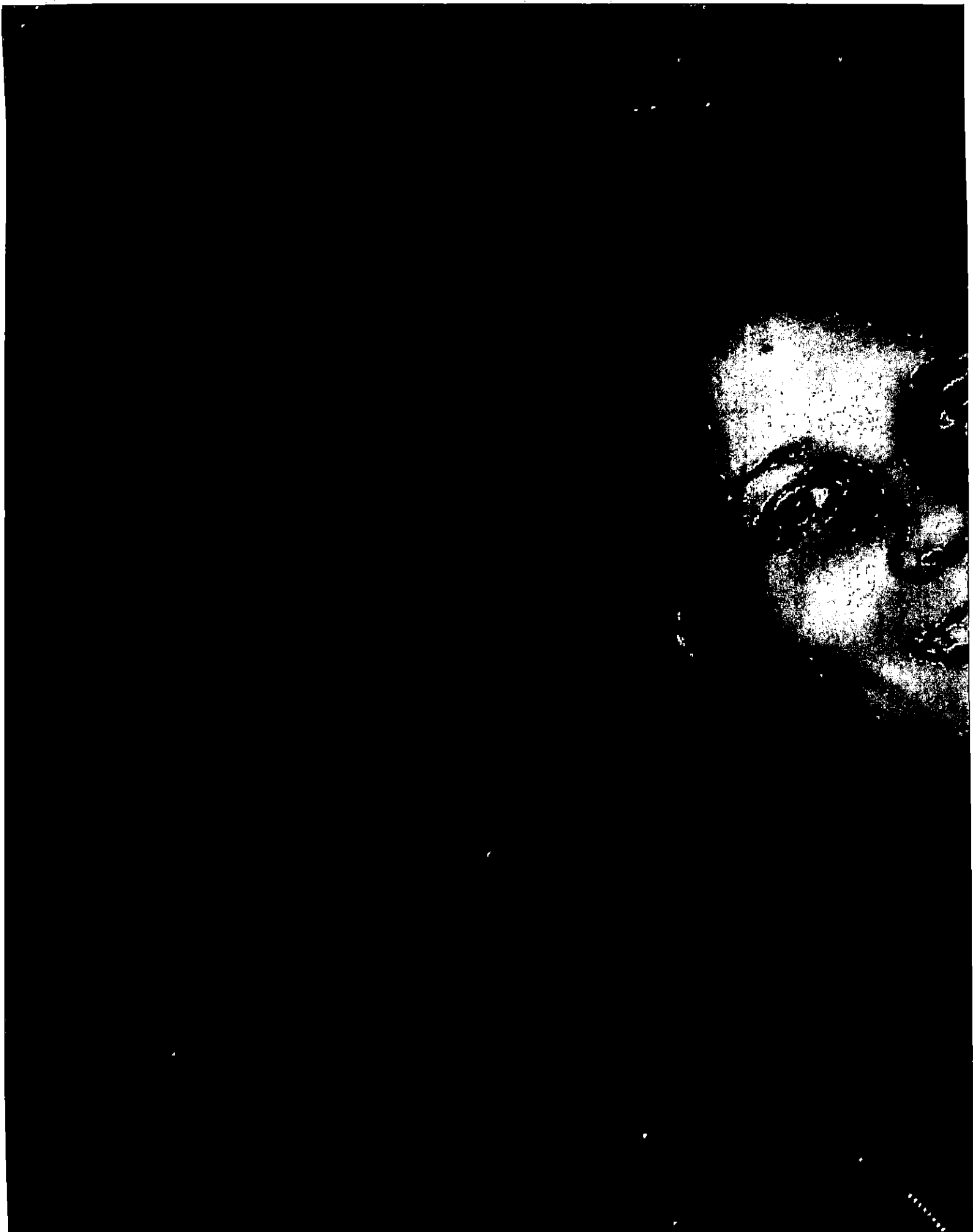
Sincerely,

Sarah Blanchette

980 Isaac Frye Hwy, Wilton, NH 03086

[sally.blanchette@gmail.com](mailto:sally.blanchette@gmail.com)

603-801-6550



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Kayla Kenney <kayla@jglhc.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 1, 2021 1:24 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Lovering opposition to HB1 and HB 2

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As the Interim Executive Director of Lovering Health Center in Greenland, NH, I urge you to remove dangerous and unnecessary “physical and financial” separation language for reproductive health care providers that is currently in HB 2. While this language specifically refers to reproductive health care centers that also provide abortion care, it would completely dismantle the New Hampshire’s Family Planning Program at a time when we are trying to recover from a public health crisis.

The three providers defunded by the language in the current budget served 12,000 of the 15,000 Granite Staters served by the Family Planning Program last year. **If this language is included in the final budget, access to care would be at risk for 79% of the patients served by the program.**

Lovering Health Center is an intrinsic component of the reproductive health care safety net in Seacoast New Hampshire. Our health center saw 600 patients in 2020 for essential reproductive health care services including contraception, cancer screenings, and STD testing and treatment. Many of our patients have low incomes or are uninsured and rely on the low or no-cost services provided through the Family Planning Program. While Lovering Health Center also performs abortion care, that is not a service that is provided by the program. If a patient seeks abortion care, they must self-pay or pay with their private insurance.

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) currently contracts with ten health care organizations for the provision of family planning services, including Lovering Health Center. We have partnered with NH DHHS for over 8 years to provide these services. Historically, this program has used a combination of federal Title X and state general funds, but the proposed budget also does not account for the fact that we are currently cut out of the federal Title X program. While the Biden administration is working to overturn this “gag rule” on the Title X program, federal funding will not be restored until next spring at earliest and therefore the funding line is insufficient.

Even before the COVID-19, Lovering Health Center ran an incredibly tight budget, and our current revenue is even lower than it was before the pandemic. This state funding is critical to ensure that we can continue to provide essential reproductive health care services to our patients who rely on us for quality, affordable care.

I urge the Senate Finance Committee to remove the language from the budget that defunds Lovering Health Center and other critical safety net providers during a pandemic. I welcome the opportunity to speak further with anyone interested in learning more about the patients we serve, whose access to care will be impacted by this current language.

Sincerely,  
Kayla Kenney

**Kayla Kenney, LICSW**

Co-Interim Executive Director

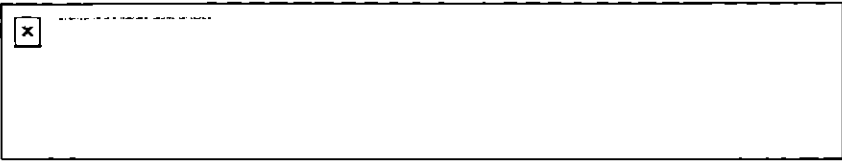
Lovering Health Center

**Phone:** 603-436-7588

**Location:** 559 Portsmouth Ave, Greenland, NH 03840

**Mail:** PO Box 456, Greenland, NH 03840

**JGLHC.org**





## Debra Martone

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**From:** Liz Tentarelli <LWV@kenliz.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 1, 2021 1:38 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1; don't fund SB130

To the Senate Finance Committee

I respect the time and attention you have paid to crafting a budget.

However, no matter whether I like your plan or not, I strongly oppose the addition of policy matters to the budget that have not been fully voted on and signed into law. Uppermost in those concerns is SB130, the school vouchers/school choice bill. The Senate voted, but neither the House nor the Governor have gone on record about approving this shifting of state funds to private schools and home schoolers with very limited oversight. Including such a major policy change in the budget is not good government procedure.

I also criticize your budget for cutting funding for an essential medical resource in rural NH, Planned Parenthood of Norther New England.

Abortion is legal; ideally it should be rare. But if family planning counseling and resources are not easily available to the public, abortions will increase, even if they are difficult to obtain. Cutting PPNNE funding makes no sense fiscally or morally.

Liz Tentarelli, Newbury NH

## Testimony on HB 2 – May 4, 2021

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Laura Vincent and I live in Loudon, NH. Although I am a member of the Merrimack Valley School Board, I am testifying as a citizen and not representing the board.

I am requesting that the wording from SB 130 about Education Freedom Accounts be kept out of HB 2 for multiple reasons. The reason which I want to elaborate on is the lack of accountability for student outcomes in the language about EFAs. Although the language has been amended to include three choices to measure student progress, a large loophole remains. The three choices listed to assess student progress are (1) using the NH state assessment used in public schools; (2) using another standardized test; and (3) using an evaluation of a portfolio of student work. This assessment by portfolio evaluation is where the loophole lies.

For instance a student being homeschooled could have their portfolio evaluated by any “teacher” selected by the parent. The teacher doing the evaluation, perhaps a relative or friend of the family, does not have to be certified and does not have to have experience at the student’s grade level (such as a non-certified teacher working in a private kindergarten evaluating a high school student’s portfolio). Also, there is no language requiring this portfolio evaluation to be reported to the state or school district, only to the scholarship organization. The scholarship organization is not authorized or required to do anything further with the portfolio and is not authorized or required to terminate an EFA even if the student shows no progress year after year. Although this situation may not occur frequently, when it does occur, there is no recourse for addressing the student’s unmet needs. This issue could be considered under the increased scrutiny of a stand-alone bill.

May 4, 2021

Chairman Gary Daniels  
NH Senate Finance Committee  
SH Rm Senate Chamber  
107 N. Main Street  
Concord, NH 03303

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

We the undersigned mayors and school board chairs are writing to you concerned about the potential inclusion of Senate Bill 130 language in the state budget, a bill creating a school voucher program using property tax money raised at the local level to fund vouchers for private, religious and homeschool education.

While some of the undersigned may have objections about such a program on an education policy level, we all have concerns about the potential for this initiative to downshift costs onto the property taxpayers of our respective cities. Furthermore, to date, there has been no independent fiscal analysis conducted by the Legislative Budget Office (LBA) to indicate what this legislation would mean for costs to our school district. You may recall 3 years ago, on the heels of the SB 193 being reported out of the education policy committee in the House, then finance Chairman Kurk asked the LBA to conduct an analysis of the statewide and local impact of SB 193 in order to fully understand the potential its passage would mean for property taxpayers. After review, Rep. Kurk and a majority of the NH House, ultimately decided that the potential risk to property taxpayers was too great to move forward.

Of grave concern to all of us is that with a voucher program in SB 130, one far more expansive than SB 193 before the Senate, there has been no such analysis completed to date.

A recent report from Reaching Higher NH, conservatively indicates that SB 130 would cost the state around \$70 million in new education spending over just the next 3 years with no suggested revenue stream yet determined by the legislature, other than we assume the education trust fund. As you well know any shortfall in the education trust funds means a draw on tax dollars from the general fund. In addition, with just a 3% take up rate among public school families in our school districts, we collectively could be facing millions of dollars of new local property taxes, especially as adequate education grants will be phased out.

Given this recent report, we would respectfully request that for the sake of transparency and informed public input, that the Senate request a similar financial analysis be done that examines different scenarios of the impact that a program like the one laid out in Senate passed SB 130 could mean for our local school districts.

Should this bill be placed into the budget as was announced on the senate floor last month, our NH House of Representatives will only ever get the chance to vote on this as one item among

dozens of others, depriving them of the chance to make the determination they did from a few years ago on SB 193, and whether they feel comfortable in adopting a program that could have such a tremendous financial impact at the local level.

We the undersigned share that concern and would like to be able to anticipate and judge what such a program would mean for the residents we represent in the coming years. Give us and our citizens a look so that we may have a chance to advocate one way or the other with all the information necessary.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to our state.

Mayor Paul Grenier, Berlin  
Chair Ann Nolan, Berlin  
Mayor Charlene Lovett, Claremont  
Chair Frank Sprague, Claremont  
Interim Mayor Oliva Zink, Franklin  
Chair Tim Dow, Franklin  
Mayor Andrew Hosmer, Laconia  
Mayor Tim McNamara, Lebanon

Chair Richard Milius, Lebanon  
Mayor Dana Hilliard, Somersworth  
Chair Matt Hanlon, Somersworth  
Mayor & Chair Joyce Craig, Manchester  
Mayor Jim Donchess, Nashua  
Chair Garth McKinney, Nashua  
Mayor Caroline McCarley, Rochester

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Jennifer Runyon <jennrunyon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 1, 2021 3:15 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NH Affordable Housing Fund and Homelessness Services

Hello,

I believe that the lack of affordable housing in NH is a detriment to the health and viability of our beautiful state. The state budget should include significant investment in the Affordable Housing Fund. The Affordable Housing Fund provides below market rate loans to leverage the investment of other private and federal resources into affordable housing development.

- There is an affordable housing shortage in New Hampshire. The lack of affordable housing in our state is impacting workforce recruitment and retention, driving millennials out of state, and increasing homelessness.
- Public investment in the Affordable Housing Fund leverages additional private capital and federal resources to help address NH's development needs.
- New Hampshire's robust housing market has generated strong Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT) revenue but has narrowed affordable housing options for residents. By reinvesting revenue into the Affordable Housing Fund, we can leverage capital into more affordable housing production.

### Homeless Services

In order to address the increase in homelessness, the state budget should include an increase in funding for homeless services.

- Overall, the state has had a 21% increase in people experiencing homelessness.
- Currently, it costs \$47 per person per night to shelter someone, and the state reimburses \$8.80 of that cost.
- We need a budget that reimburses at least 50% of the cost of sheltering residents experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Jennifer Runyon  
Dublin, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Martha Robb <robbmd@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 1, 2021 5:40 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Martha Robb  
**Subject:** HB1 Tuesday May 4 at 1pm

Hello,

I am writing because I am opposed to vouchers for private schools. Because the State of New Hampshire already provides fewer funds for public education than other states, I think it is imperative not to diminish that funding for any reason, and particularly not to weaken funding because of vouchers that some citizens would like. Too much is at stake if our public education system doesn't thrive.

Thank you,

Martha Robb

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Jeff Dickler <gsgstriker@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 11:41 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** State Budge vrs HB544

Please remove the language from HB 544 from the state budget. The language bans state agencies, K-12 schools, public colleges and universities, and state contractors from learning about and addressing systemic racism and sexism – a critical part of overcoming barriers to a healthy and equitable community.

Jeff Dickler  
Rindge New Hampshire

## Debra Martone

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**From:** MAJA SMITH <majahauck@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 12:37 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 544

Dear Ms. Martone,

I strongly oppose the inclusion of the language of HB 544 in SB 2 and ask for it's removal.

The language bans state agencies, K-12 schools, public colleges and universities, and state contractors from learning about and addressing systemic racism and sexism – a critical part of overcoming barriers to a healthy and equitable community.

Best wishes,

Maja Smith



## Debra Martone

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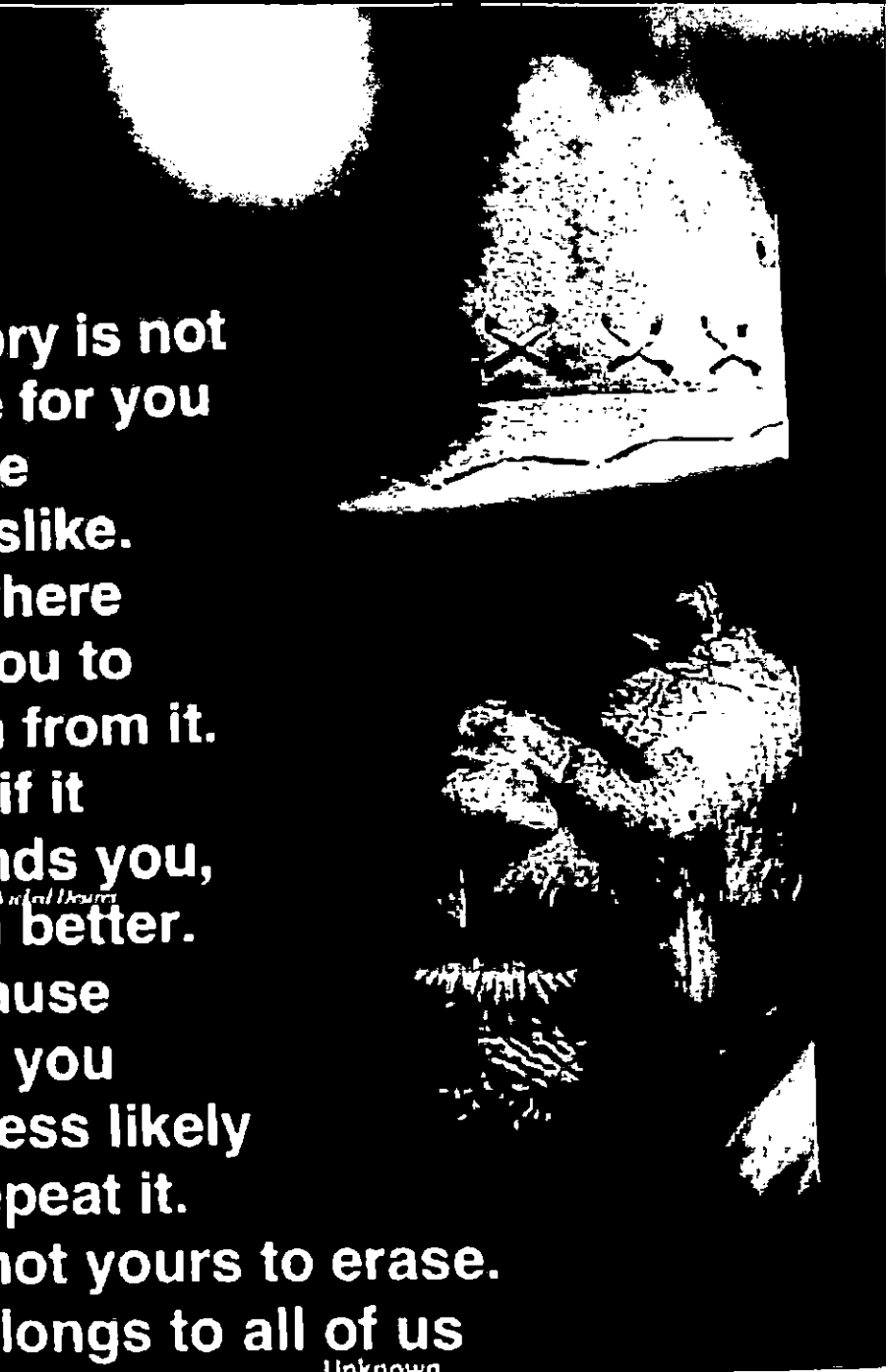
**From:** Susan Covert <scovert@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 12:47 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 544 Inserted in the State Budget

Dear Members of Senate Finance:

I'm writing in regards to the insertion of the language from HB 544 into the State Budget. If America is ever to become a nation where liberty and justice are truly available to *all*, we must be able to talk about how we can overcome the racism and sexism that has plagued our nation from its earliest days.

I respectfully ask you to remove this language from our State budget.

Susan Covert  
31 Cottage Street  
Contoocook, NH 03229



**History is not  
there for you  
to like  
or dislike.**

**It is there  
for you to  
learn from it.**

**And if it  
offends you,  
even better.**

**Because  
then you  
are less likely  
to repeat it.**

**It's not yours to erase.  
It belongs to all of us**

Unknown

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Peterson Lynn <lapeterson412@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 3:34 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1/2: Vouchers and School Restrictions

Dear Representative Martone:

I am writing to urge you to amend the budget to remove the school voucher section. Public schools are struggling to help students with academics, social and emotional learning, and resiliency. Public school teachers have training in harassment, bullying, suicide prevention, as well as holding appropriate degrees and certifications. This cannot be said of staffs in private alternatives. Although I support educational options and choice, state money should be reserved for public schools - our greatest protector of democracy. I have not ever had to call the fire department to my home (fortunately!), but I have not asked to have money given back to me so I can find an alternative to the public services provided by the town. What would happen to the fire department and the safety of the people if this system were offered? Would the town really save money if they did not have to come to my house in an emergency? The vouchers will take money away from schools, not help them, as Secretary Edleblut purports. Many tax payers are being misled to believe this will save them money, and I worry about what will happen to precarious town budgets when towns actually have to raise property taxes to make up for this plan.

I also urge you to remove the portion of the budget that limits what can be addressed in schools. Avoiding the subject of institutional racism will not make it go away, and will only prolong the struggle we face now. This is not a fiscal issue and should not even be attached to this budget. I am embarrassed that such legislation is even being addressed in the state of New Hampshire. We send a loud message to the youth in this state who have the choice to move away, and to others who may consider moving here. I fear that we are attempting to control the thinking of the population that lives in this state, and why legislators want that control.

Thank you for hearing my communication and thank you for your service.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Peterson

## Debra Martone

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**From:** CONNIE EVANS <cke1@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 3:55 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 & HB 2

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I strongly oppose HB 1 and HB 2. Underfunding public education by \$90 million puts an undue strain on the most disadvantaged towns that need as much state money as possible. Additionally, \$50 million in cuts to the Department of Health and Human Services, especially during a pandemic when resources are needed the most, is deplorable.

Sincerely,  
Connie EVans  
Weare resident

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Marie Nardino <mdnardino@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 4:39 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov; Harold French; Louise Andrus; Natalie Wells  
**Subject:** HB 544 and HB 2  
**Importance:** High

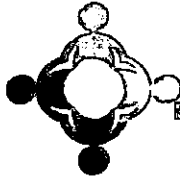
To Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to request that the Senate Finance Committee, in its budget deliberations, remove the HB 544 language that was inserted by the NH House into the state budget via HB 2. It is my understanding that the House passed HB 544 and then tabled the bill. But, rather than let it lie (or die), it decided to transfer its language to the budget. Please excuse me if I fail to see this move as anything but disingenuous and concerning.

The objectionable language bans state agencies, K-12 schools, public colleges and universities, and state contractors from learning about and addressing systemic racism and sexism. I fail to see why the State of New Hampshire would consider this as anything but an attempt to protect the historic false narrative of American white male supremacy. From the white European "discovery" of this continent, through the founding of our country and beyond, there has been a story written which we have come to realize contains uncomfortable and dangerous misinformation and untruths. The proper way forward is to face these untruths and strive to correct them as we progress. For a government to legislate (or budget) denial of reality and erasure of our history is authoritarian, dysfunctional and dystopian. I would also suggest that it is unconstitutional.

In conclusion, please remove the objectionable HB 544 language and move on to a discussion of budget items that would actually benefit the state and its people. Thank you.

Marie D. Nardino  
Andover



## Monadnock Interfaith Project

*Building An Interfaith Coalition for Community, Understanding, and Social Justice*

MonadnockInterfaith.Wordpress.Com

MonadnockInterfaith@Gmail.Com

May 4, 2021

Honorable Senators of the New Hampshire Senate Finance Committee:

Monadnock Interfaith Project (MIP) stands with other New Hampshire organizations and businesses in opposition to the recently introduced NH House Bill 544 that seeks to prohibit teaching about systemic racism and sexism in public schools and state funded programs.

MIP is a non-profit coalition of congregations, organizations, and individuals working together to foster interfaith community, understanding, and systemic change that benefits the Monadnock region. Our work is inspired by the sacrifices and teachings of our many cherished religious leaders, including Moses, Jesus, Prophet Muhammad, Gautama Buddha, Gandhi, and Mother Teresa who all walked with people who were vulnerable and marginalized, and sought to change systems and cultural practices for greater equality.

HB544 was tabled, but its language was added to the House Budget and will be taken up by the NH Senate Finance Committee. The intent of HB544 contradicts MIP's mission for community understanding and mutual respect. Our opposition to HB544 is rooted in our commitment to what Dr. Martin Luther King called "the beloved community." We can only create a more tolerant, loving and compassionate place for us all if we are able to provide that place to all of us.

In the Jewish tradition of Tikkun Olam, we all bear responsibility not only for our own moral, spiritual, and material welfare, but also for the welfare of society at large. These teachers and traditions challenge us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Collectively, we need to face head on the present racism and sexism, existing virtually every system in our lives - education, criminal justice, housing, economy, and religion.

Proposing to suppress certain facts of our collective histories, because those facts are seen by the proponents of this bill to be "Divisive Concepts," that may be painful to certain people chills not only the spine, but the heart of our democracy.

Instead of limiting discussion, let's commit to deep reflection, hard conversations, and changing practices and policies in all our institutions to move beyond racism and sexism.

Together we as a society can grow with trust, faith, compassion and love.

**Monadnock Interfaith Project**

PO Box 161

Keene, NH 03431

(603) 357-4521

<http://mipnh.org/>

Judy Lundahl, 532 Rt 12A, Surry, NH

James Duffy, 30 Wolf Tree Road, Winchester, NH

Roye Ginsberg, 27 Hilltop Dr., Keene, NH

Leonard Fleischer, 57 Wildwood Road, Spofford NH

Charlie Gibson, 54 Shaker Farm Rd South, Marlborough, NH

Nancy Newton, 318 Hurricane Rd., Keene, NH

Pamela Parrish, 44 Monadnock Drive, Marlborough, NH

Angela Pape, 25 Callie's Common Peterborough NH

Tom Julius, PO Box 323, 3 Tannery Rd, Gilsum, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Carol Schapira <carolschapira@me.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 5:39 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone; Gary Daniels  
**Cc:** Cindy Rosenwald  
**Subject:** SB130

This is Carol Schapira, a NH citizen. I am writing to urge you to remove SB130 from the budget. Not only is this a bad bill that will impact public schools and property taxes, but it is missing controls and accountability. Please vote to remove it from the budget. Carol Schapira, 66 Woodland Drive, Contoocook.

Sent from my iPad



## Debra Martone

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**From:** robert moeller <robertmoeller246@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 5:42 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Ending funding for Planned Parenthood makes abortion choices for women more difficult not easier or better. Soon we would have the unsafe procedures that resulted in serious injury and possible death of the mother.

Sent from my iPhone

## Debra Martone

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**From:** McLoughlin, Shirley <smcloughlin@keene.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 8:23 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Jay Kahn  
**Subject:** Written Testimony

Dear Ms. Martone -

I, for the first time in my life (all 67 years of it) decided to present testimony in opposition to a proposal, HB 2, to a Senate Hearing. It is that important to me. However, due to a health condition, I just realized an appointment I made quite some time ago in Hanover NH for a CT scan and other tests is that same day, unfortunately. Therefore, I cannot present. I am not sure if you can share what I wish to express. It is as follows, and I would be so grateful you could share it:

I am a Professor Emerita from Keene State College. I retired in December 2020, from my position as a full professor in Education, and an Affiliate Professor in Women and Gender Studies. I was a Fulbright Scholar in the Republic of Georgia in 2013, and will be a Fulbright Scholar in Greece in the Spring of 2022. I was a nurse in Keene for about fifteen years, a teacher in public and private schools in Keene and Cincinnati, Ohio, and received my Ph.D. from Miami University of Ohio. I published a book based upon my dissertation on the Blues Metaphor, and have done considerable research and presentation internationally on race, difference, ethnicity, power, and diversity. I also teach about it, most frequently in a Women's Studies and Education course entitled "Women and Education." but I do so in a manner by which my students can be exposed to different ideas, viewpoints, and cultures. I initiate all of my classes with a discussion about how we develop our values, our thoughts, and our ideas about those folks we may not be exposed to on a regular basis (remember - New Hampshire is the 4th "Whitest" state in our nation). My students come up with a list of these sources of information - from their parents, family, friends, education, media, etc. I then explain that we will be learning about a different perspective, a feminist perspective, to education. We delve into all types of feminism and other forms of marginalization (racism, etc) - traditional white feminism, black feminism, Asian feminism, etc. But we do so with the caveat of the importance of learning about these things, because no one can truly develop their own educated set of values without understanding different perspectives, why other folks believe such things. I reiterate that is important for students to seek out to learn about different ideas and viewpoints, for this is so important in maintaining the democratic foundations of our country. I reiterate to students I am not telling them to take on a feminist approach to education, or a more "liberal" approach to their values, but instead, to develop an understanding why there are folks, often marginalized, that need to have voice, and that all students need to be educated about the importance of understanding the different voices, the different values, and the different cultures that make up our United States. I try to instill in them a motivation to continue to seek out opportunities to learn more about other cultures, religions, ethnicities, etc.

I want to share something I learned from my time time working as a Fulbright professor in the Republic of Georgia. During this time, an LGBT group in the capital city of Tbilisi, attempted to do a peaceful demonstration to increase awareness about LGBT rights in Georgia. The head of the Georgian Orthodox Church cried out for a massive counter-demonstration, which led to minor injuries, and the necessity to provide swift, rapid removal of the LGBT supporters/demonstrators. It was an example of the voice of a less predominant, less powerful group in a society being silenced. However, several small meetings occurred after this to discuss the ramifications following this disturbing event. During one meeting sponsored by the USAID folks, one Georgian woman made an important point. She stated "If we want to be a democracy, we have to allow all folks to be able to share their options, even if we do not agree with them." In this small country who had suffered from years of oppression by the USSR, their understanding of democracy tenets held true. I hope this legislative body also recognizes this, and the role education plays on this.

Please consider the importance of educating our students to multiple viewpoints. Please support the continuance of the United States higher education to remain the beacon of democratic education. Please understand you can do so by opposing this bill. Thank you.

Dr. Shirley Wade McLoughlin, Ph.D.  
Professor Emerita  
Keene State College  
Fulbright Alumnae Ambassador

PS. If I could send this as a video, please let me know.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Cynthia Walter <cawalter22@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 8:46 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Budget Testimony

May 2, 2021  
To Senate Finance Committee,

I strongly oppose the budget addition to include public money for private schools in a so called, Education Freedom Account (EFA). My opposition is based on 35 years of experience as a professor teaching teachers and collaborations with teachers from private and public schools.

It is unethical for you to agree to add a controversial plan in the budget. There was overwhelming opposition when the EFA was proposed as a bill such as HB 20. Forcing Granite Staters to accept a radical change in education funding just to have a budget is shameful.

The Education Freedom Account (EFA) name should be changed to **Education Fraud Account** because it invites massive fraud against our kids, their parents and all taxpayers.

Children who are struggling in public schools need help using the many extra resources available from professionals in public schools. Switching a troubled child to a private institution without regulations is more likely to cause serious harm to those children.

Good private and parochial schools do NOT need taxpayer money. Such schools remain open to paying parents and families on scholarships through donors. Good private/parochial schools welcome government control. Also, responsible educators in any organization would not want to remove funds for public education and leave city governments to raise taxes.

In addition, I have lined up a few of the many specific problems with the EFA plan using the words in the HB 20 bill itself in *Italics* below, because the HB20 plan is now basically in the budget.

### *194-E:1 Definitions.*

*" VIII. "Full-time" means more than 50 percent of instructional time."*

- Public schools teach 100% of the school year and every public school teacher gives >100% of their efforts to our kids. In contrast, **this bill gives full EFA money if they teach only 51% of the time – Outrageous.**

### *194-E:2 Program.*

*"II. Parents of an EFA student shall agree to use the funds deposited in their student's EFA for the following qualifying expenses to educate the EFA student:*

- (a) Tuition or fees, or both, at a private school.*
- (b) Tuition or fees, or both, for non-public online learning programs.*
- (c) Tutoring services provided by an individual or a tutoring facility."*

- This illegally changes how taxpayer money is used. State laws directed my tax money to be used for public schools that have board supervision and public meetings, transparent fund uses, certified teachers, and research-based curricula open to public scrutiny. **This bill gives my tax dollars to unregulated, private organizations for undefined "fees" and uncertified people if they call themselves tutors.– Outrageous!**

*"II. Education service providers shall be given maximum freedom to provide for the educational needs of EFA students without governmental control."*

- Public schools by law must provide for every child following specific guidelines that ensure safe and fair treatment for all kids, including those with special needs. Laws require educational efforts for special needs children to be documented and shared with parents. Parents do not always recognize a child's special needs, but our public school staff are more trained than parents. Furthermore, public schools must also provide safe environments. **In contrast, Section 194:E-4 III. of this bill does not properly comply with 20 U.S.C. section 1412, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Basically, this bill gives tax money to any private group to have "maximum freedom" to guess at a child's "educational needs", all "without government control" – Outrageous!!**

*"V. No education service provider shall be required to alter its creed, practices, admissions policy or curriculum in order to accept payments from an EFA."*

- Because public schools use public funds, the whole school including the curriculum is open to parents and the public for comment. Public educators work with experts around the world to bring the best curriculum and teaching practices to New Hampshire. This shows transparency and a wise use of our tax money because our kids are our future. **In contrast, when kids are subjected to poor quality curriculum and resources, they can fall behind in critical skills, and some drop out of school all together. Parents often fail to see that the school was the problem, not the child. Sadly, I have seen this happen in some private schools. This bill gives tax money to schools with potentially harmful curricula. – Outrageous and terribly sad.**

***"FISCAL IMPACT:***

*The Office of Legislative Budget Assistant is unable to complete a fiscal note for this bill, as introduced, as it is awaiting information from the Department of Education."*

- I recognize that fiscal impacts are not usually provided at this legislative stage, but the bill clearly gives taxpayer money to private companies. Furthermore, common sense predicts serious negative impacts for public school funding. Good education takes long-range planning and public schools cannot plan if they do not know how many kids will be enrolled and the funds they will have going forward. **This bill leaves city governments with a potentially huge responsibility to make up funds for public schools and thus raise taxes -Outrageous and unfair.**

**I beg you to Vote NO.**

Regards,  
Cynthia Walter, Ph.D.  
22 West Concord St., Dover NH 03820

[cawalter22@gmail.com](mailto:cawalter22@gmail.com) and alternate email [walter.atherton@gmail.com](mailto:walter.atherton@gmail.com)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** John Atherton <jmatherton.3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 8:55 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Budget Testimony

Stop the Budget and Fix Education  
J. Michael Atherton, Ph.D.  
5/3/21

I oppose the budget because it contains wording that would gut funding for public schools, that would send a vote of no confidence to public school teachers, and that gives public money to private schools. If public schools have troubles, then it is time to roll up our sleeves and fix the public schools, not throw up our arms and surrender our responsibility to private schools that have no governance by public officials. As Churchill said, "Never let a good crisis go to waste."

It is time to use our intelligence to make our public schools the best in the nation; not to run away screaming that the educational sky is falling and we can do nothing about it. If we hand over responsibility for the education of our children to unsupervised private schools, then we also abdicate our right to guide our student in the future. They will return from their private experiences and look at NH governance with rightful contempt, because when they needed our expertise, our energy, and our support we shipped them off to the privates. How cowardly.

You may ask if stopping the entire budget for educational issues is appropriate. Of course it is. The reasons to separate education from the omnibus budget bill are many but the basic one is that education is THE foundation of a well-run state. Diminish the public schools and you diminish the means to improve our political system, build our economic system, and advance our technological know-how. Education is the base of the state, the bulwark against the dangers of ignorance, and a North Star for advancing into an intelligent, healthy, and sane future. Are these things worthy of separate discussion or should they be snuck into the huge budget where other items of necessity call out for their time in the sun? Absolutely yes, they are.

Some benighted people claim parents are the right persons to control their child's education. What nonsense! Most parents couldn't explain the use of a semicolon, do simple algebra, or find Eswatini on a world map. Most parents have no idea how to design a curriculum that is coherent, complete, and consistent. How can they? Most have been out of school for years. They are busy earning a living and have little time, attention, or energy to make such monumental decisions. This is why municipalities in the state of New Hampshire hire educators. Educators dedicate their lives to education. If parents are not professional educators, then they need to learn to trust people who are professional: our public school teachers.

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Lee Wells <leewells.locustfarm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 10:58 PM  
**To:** Chuck Morse; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; bobguida@leg.state.nh.us; Debra Martone; Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro  
**Subject:** HB544 showing up in the State Budget via HB2

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee

As a retired educator, I believe that one of the most important skills I could help my students develop is to think critically. That means exposing them to a variety of ideas and theories so they can learn to think critically and independently. The "Divisive Concepts Bill" is in my mind a form of censorship and a restriction of free speech, it limits access to a diversity of ideas and has no place in our society. It goes counter to the ideals that our country was founded on. I also firmly believe that ignoring problems tends to exacerbate them, and most certainly does not make them go away. It is through difficult conversations that growth happens and solutions are found.

I also believe that budgets are exactly that, and not a place to hide bills.

I urge you to remove the "Divisive Concepts Bill" language from HB2.

Sincerely,  
Lee P. Wells  
Andover

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Ken Wells <kenwells3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 11:24 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Don't gag free speech in the NH budget

Dear Senator,

Please remove from the NH budget all the HB544 language that calls for censorship of the sometimes painful, but accurate teaching of American history.

As a teacher, I have long known the educational worth of encouraging free discussion. Discussing what has happened before, both the good and the bad, the proud and the shameful, has value because it gives an opportunity for moral reflection, and teaches critical thinking skills to students and adults alike.

The outrageous doublespeak of HB544 tries to gag education about pervasive acts of racism and sexism that have existed, and continue to exist in the United States. This bad bill has encountered strong opposition from fair-minded people all across New Hampshire. To table this bad bill in the House after a partisan vote, but then stick its language into the budget is cowardly, dishonest and anti-democratic, as well as a flagrant violation of the First Amendment.

To persist in loading the budget with legislation that gives cover to racists and sexists, that puts the State in the Orwellian role of "thought police" is a craven example of government overreach. You will find no virtue in being counted as one who has condoned this action.

Along with thousands of other fair-minded New Hampshire citizens, I will be watching your action on this very carefully.

Sincerely,  
Ken Wells  
Andover



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Michael Pedersen <pedersenusa@aim.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 2:19 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove "Divisive Concepts Prohibition" wording from HB 2

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

As you may know, the wording for House Bill 544, an Act Relative to the Propagation of Divisive Concepts has been inserted into the HB 2-FN-Local budget bill.

Reference:

[http://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill\\_status/billText.aspx?sy=2021&id=1080&txtFormat=pdf&v=current](http://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billText.aspx?sy=2021&id=1080&txtFormat=pdf&v=current)

The egregious wording of HB 544 was not certain to Pass the House of Representatives. Thus, HB 544 was tabled by the House and then inserted deep within HB 2 in the hopes it would get approved into law with the passage of the HB 2.

The "Divisive Concepts Prohibition" concept is a series of ideas designed to:

- suppress free speech
- limit the scope of ideas discussed within our society
- ignore history
- allow dominant political forces in our society to determine what is allowed and *not* allowed to be discussed

Those who control:

- 1.) the public discourse
- 2.) our 'official' history
- 3.) public perceptions

can easily lead our American society into authoritarian rule.

I implore you, for the betterment of our society to please strike the HB 544 wording from HB 2.

Sincerely yours.

Michael Pedersen

New Hampshire State Representative



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Gary Samuels <samuelspatty@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 6:57 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1, HB 2

Respected Representatives

Please note my opposition to these two fiscal policy bills.

There are many failings in the proposed budget. Among them are underfunding of state education, reducing funding to Dept of Health and Human Services during the pandemic, and refusing to allow educators to discuss the history of physical and ent and legislative violence against African Americans and Native Americans throughout the history of our Nation.

I note further that New Hampshire is underfunding state education by as much as \$90 million by downshifting to property taxes. NH already has the lowest contribution of state money and the highest concentration of local money going to fund public education.

Respectfully  
Gary Samuels  
321 Hedgehog Mountain Road  
Deering, NH 03244

## Debra Martone

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**From:** ingrid markman <ingrid.markman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:09 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** I oppose HB 1 & 2

Good Morning,

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 1 & 2. These bills will underfund education by as much as 90 million dollars. Having worked in education for most of my professional career I can speak to this bill. Trying to provide quality education with limited funding does not work. It is not fair to our students or staff who often end up spending their own money to do what they know is right for our children.

Please make sure that the state of NH is providing their fair share and not leaving it up to community property tax. When you do this you leave vulnerable children in poorer communities with less access to quality education.

Decreasing the budget by 50 million of the Health & Human services department during a pandemic is unspeakable. Taking away money for family planning is also a bad idea. Maybe you feel that no one is watching!

Lastly depressing conversation about difficult subjects such as racism and sexism during a time where the public is so divided and often undereducated on these topics is counter productive. Please do not support this.

It seems that you all are on some kind of a mission to minimize or cancel support for education, wellness and transparency.

As a citizen of NH please oppose these bills.

Thank you,  
Ingrid Markman  
102 N. Pepperell Rd., Hollis, NH 03049

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Marianne Jackson <mjaxnmd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:17 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone; Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Erin Hennessey; Cindy Rosenwald  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Testimony for Senate finance committee  
**Attachments:** Chinese new years.JPG; dining room - volunteers day.JPG; Halloween.JPG

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I want you to see three pictures of what a thriving, open senior center looks like. I wish I could send you many more. I ask you to support the \$1.5 million in the budget for New Hampshire senior centers and this is why.

Yes, we provide nutritious meals, transportation to necessary activities of normal living, and resources for our older adults in the community, but we are a family, a social, caring web of people who need and serve each other. Senior centers have stayed connected to our patrons even if our doors are locked due to CoVid, but it has been grueling. Last week we took 4 vaccinated women on the bus for an afternoon trip, none of whom had been out of their homes for 5 months. They gushed with joy.

This year we have sponsored vaccination clinics for RSVP and Meals on Wheels drivers, Meals on Wheels recipients, and other elders.

We have provided computer literacy training and free laptops to give people a chance at email, Zoom and Telehealth. We made phone calls, wrote cards, created online programs and made every effort to leave no one behind. Now we need to pivot to bring many back out but it will take effort and funds.

In a normal year without CoVid, our Gibson Center for Senior Services fund raises 65% of its revenue through a combination of appeals, fund raising events, town appropriations, grants and donations. Last year and this year, because of CoVid, we were unable to hold our annual fund-raising events at a loss of 5%. Grant funding has been almost completely diverted to emergency efforts creating a loss of over 10% of expected revenue.

This is not a time we can reduce services. It is time to *increase* our exercise programs, social gatherings, care-giver support groups, our veteran's coffee group, educational programs on prevention of scams, internet safety, home security, Telehealth, dementia prevention and detection, and so much more. We are vibrant members of a growing

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community of older adults who find in senior centers places of joy, belonging, support and discovery. We are asking that you recognize the role senior centers play in our state and support that with the \$1.5 million designation in the budget.

Respectfully,

Marianne Jackson, MD, MPH Interim Director of the Gibson Center for Senior Services









My association with the Easter Seals Adult Day Program began in 2012. It cannot be overstated just how important this program is, especially for working families.

After an automobile accident during November 2011, which left my mother unable to live on her own, she moved in with my husband and me. At the time, my husband was retired from his former occupation; but I was still a 40hr/wk, full-time employee.

Early in 2012, my husband began working as a part-time employee for a local company. This change in his employment status required us to arrange for some sort of day care for my mother. Due to her physical condition, it was not safe for her to be left on her own in our home.

We were eventually informed of the Adult Day Care program being offered through the Easter Seals facility at 555 Auburn Street in Manchester, N.H.

From the day we first entered the building and received a tour of the facilities and reviewed the program with the staff, I felt relief and confidence that my mother would be in "good hands". My mom was unhappy with the prospect of not being able to "take care of her-self". The staff diplomatically assisted me in the process of convincing her to accept her new "position". Almost immediately she began to refer to herself as "an unpaid employee".

With the exception of yearly "vacations with family" and medical appointments or illness, my mother ultimately participated weekly in the Easter Seals Adult Day Program from 2012 – 2019. I can honestly say, without reservation, that the staff is exceptionally professional, personable and extremely caring and dedicated!

Over the years, there were occasional employee turnovers. This never interfered with the excellent care my mother received. Everyone I dealt with (including the nurses, the daycare employees who "ran the daily program activities", directors, social workers, or the office staff and front desk personnel) was equally professional and pleasant.

One year, my mother suffered a severe laceration on one of her shins and the healing process was quite lengthy. During this period, the nurse at the E.S facility was exceptional in her care for my mother and in the compassion and knowledge which she provided me.

The programs that were offered during these years were exceptional, such as: art, music, indoor & outdoor (weather providing) group walks, transportation to and from the theater and other day trips. Also included were special days with children and/or animals as well.

The meals and snacks provided daily were nutritious and, when necessary, geared to specific individual requirements. Fruits always appeared fresh.

Sadly, in 2019 I was told that I would need a hip replacement. My husband would need to be my "nurse" for approximately 6 weeks or more. About the same time, my mother suffered a mild stroke. She had also experienced a couple falls over the previous year. The E. S. social worker and staff members were helpful and supportive – beyond words – as I had to make the very difficult decision to find and place my mother in an appropriate 24hour elder care facility. I cannot imagine how different my life might have been all those years without the availability and quality of the care and compassion received from the Easter Seals Adult Day Care.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Masse

Our journey began April 1, 2003 just 7 months before my father's passing. Our family realized that our parents needed more assistance than we were able to provide to them in order to keep them in their home. Although my Dad refused to go, we were able to convince mom that she would enjoy going once she got used to it.

Despite my dad's pleading for mom to stay home she went to the "dayout" program. She began to make friends and look forward to the different activities that she participated in during her visits. Within a few years my mom began quilting, something she had never done before. She has made over 20 quilts since and has given each of the children/grandchildren and a few of the great-grandchildren a heirloom that will be with us long after Mom has gone home.

In November of 2003 Mom lost her husband and lifelong companion They were married for over 50 years. It didn't take long for my mom to sink into depression. Our family watched as she started to lose her desire for life. It was at that time we inquired as to whether she could participate in the Adult Day program daily as we were concerned for her safety. With the help of a social worker Mom began her daily visits to the Adult Day program. The employees, volunteers, and friends helped Mom process the loss of her husband and she started to gain back her zest for what life could offer. During an interview many years ago, she was asked if she enjoyed going to the Adult Day program and she told them that it was better than staying at home by herself watching tv and waiting to die. It was at this time we realized how important her Adult Day family was to her and to our family.

The wonderful staff and volunteers at the Adult Day program have helped mom also process the loss of a sister, a brother and most recently her daughter. With their love and commitment to her and our family she continues to thrive. Without their continued support I truly believe mom would have given up many years ago.

For our family the Adult Day program is mom's second family. We know they love and care for her as if she was their parent. They have helped us with medical needs, medication distribution, referrals and information. Our family, me in particular, would not have been able to continue to work while caring for mom. Our family decided many years ago that we would keep mom at home as long as it was safe for her to be home. The Adult Day program has been vital in making that happen. She has been able live at home and participate in all family activities.

No one provides the kind of love a family provides and she gets more love than many other seniors that I know who are not at home with their families. Without the Adult Day family providing additional support and love this pandemic would have been unbearable for her and us. Words cannot express the gratitude and love we have for the staff and volunteers at the Easterseals Adult Day program. They live the Easterseals purpose and mission by providing exceptional service to us and many others in our community.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Viking Hedberg <vahedberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:28 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposition to the "Divisive Concepts" section in HB-2

Senators:

Thank you for your service. I am writing to express my concern with the "Divisive Concepts" section that has been rolled into HB-2.

76. Defines and prohibits the dissemination of certain divisive concepts related to sex and race in state contracts, grants, and training programs.

As a physician-educator, I am very concerned if our "Live Free or Die" State government adopts legislation-however well-meaning- that intrudes on my freedom of speech in teaching of medical students and residents.

Such efforts by legislators to impose censorship is a threat to free society. Please remove this section from HB-2.

Thank you for your consideration.

Viking A. Hedberg, MD, MPH  
Plymouth

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



**WENTWORTH-DOUGLASS  
HOSPITAL**

A Mass General Community Hospital

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Gary Daniels  
State House - Room 105  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Senator Daniels,

I write to ask you to oppose the inclusion of provisions in HB 2, as passed by the New Hampshire House of Representatives, "relative to the propagation of divisive concepts" outlined in HB 544. As a local organization with over 3,400 employees that prioritizes diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) in the workplace and as an organization that participates in contracts with the State of New Hampshire, the language in HB 544 is deeply concerning.

As a leading health system in New Hampshire, it is a top priority for our Organization to address these disparities for the communities we serve. HB 544 would limit our ability to have open, honest, and necessary conversations about race and gender disparities in healthcare and therefore, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital opposes inclusion of its provisions in HB 2.

Last summer, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital committed to a system-wide "United Against Racism" campaign to bring our Organization to a new and higher level of leadership and accountability in addressing and eliminating racism. Last week, many of our staff attended a presentation by a national racial justice educator and next month, leaders and staff will attend a DE&I summit. Education and training addressing issues ranging from anti-harassment, to racism in healthcare, effective conversations about race, and interrupting racism are planned and scheduled for all staff well into the future. To address the enormous challenge of racism and gender disparity in healthcare requires an extensive analysis of root cause; in this case, historic and systemic racism. The process requires deep discussion, reflection, a committed vision of true health equity in our health system, and a need to educate our colleagues to provide care in an un-biased, culturally competent, and equitable way.

This work, along with an informed understanding of the impact of systemic racism and sexism in healthcare, is the only way forward in our pursuit to provide excellent healthcare to our patients, a welcoming sanctuary of health to all community members, and a strong and positive workplace for our employees and affiliated physicians and providers.

For these reasons, I ask you to please oppose the inclusion of provisions in HB 2, as passed by the New Hampshire House of Representatives, relative to the propagation of divisive topics as outlined in HB 544.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey B. Hughes, FAOHE  
Interim President and CEO

## Testimony on HB-2

My name is William Maddocks, I am the owner of a community economic development consulting firm in Amherst. I am testifying today in opposition HB-2.

HB-2 as a bill concerning the state budget is woefully inadequate to meet the health, educational and other human needs of Granite stater. Instead of addressing these concerns some members of the legislature have inserted a poison pill - the former HB-544- to attack widespread efforts to diversify the state. This is a fool's errand, to say the least.

But let's just think ahead to the possibility that the so called Divisive Concepts amendment were to become law. In addition to schools, universities and colleges there are hundreds of NH companies carrying out Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work and many have contracts with the state. Enforcing this law will be a daunting task.

The draft legislation states that the ***"department of administrative services will be directed to investigate complaints received alleging that a state contractor is utilizing such training programs in violation of the contractor's obligations"*** How will this investigation be carried out and how will it be paid for? Will citizens be asked to turn in fellow citizens who are violating the law? I can imagine the ad campaign "Drop a dime on Diversity".

Of course just banning a form of free speech will not suffice. Unless you go after the books, you will not kill the beast. So to help the state in this task I would like to offer a short list of where to start when looking for divisive concepts.

Begin with Ray Bradbury's book Fahrenheit 451 which will be very instructive to the staff of the department of administrative services. Maybe they can be issued fire hats and salamander symbols to wear to identify them as the Divisive Concepts Police.

If it's books that deal with depictions of white people in unflattering ways look for these titles: Soul On Ice, by Elridge Cleaver (I read that when I was 14), White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism" by Robin DiAngelo, and The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin

For books that deal with feminism I would suggest to find and ban A Vindication of the Rights of Woman by Mary Wollstonecraft (published way back in 1792 and not yet banned), Men Explain Things to Me by Rebecca Solnit, The Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler and Sister Outsider by Audre Lorde which may offend white men, white women and anyone who is homophobic all in one book!

The point is this is a crazy piece of legislation. It is unenforceable, offensive and would be a major deterrent to creating the kind of diverse state and economy that is needed in New Hampshire in the 21st century. I urge you to defeat this bill and embrace the courageous conversations on diversity which we need to have to be a truly unified state.

William Maddocks  
23 Juniper Drive  
Amherst, NH 03031  
508-574-3285

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Jill La Vallee <jill\_lavallee@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:30 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SB 2 - opposition statement

To Whom it May Concern,

I want to register my **strong opposition to** any amendments proposed to SB 2 which include elements of SB 130 (establishing school vouchers), and HB 544 (prohibiting schools from teaching about and offering trainings on systemic racism and sexism).

Jill La Vallee  
35 Center Road  
Canterbury, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Mary Lincoln <mary.lincoln52@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:43 AM  
**To:** Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda  
**Cc:** Debra Martone; Kevin Cavanaugh  
**Subject:** Censorship does not belong in the state budget.

Dear Senators,

I am writing in opposition to SB544. This provision does not belong in the state budget, or anywhere in our state laws. SB 544 would censor frank and honest discussions of systemic racism, gender discrimination and other aspects of our nation's history. Proponents of the bill cloak this unconstitutional provision under the guise of "patriotism" but true patriotism means owning up to the mistakes of our past and working to improve the lives of all Americans. SB544 would further divide our people at a time when we must be working to heal our divisions.

As a New Hampshire resident who pays Dividend and Interest taxes annually, as a property owner who pays real estate taxes annually, as a grandparent of children in public school in New Hampshire, and as a retired attorney who values the U. S. Constitution, I am deeply offended not only by the content of SB544 but also by the process by which it was included in the budget.

I urge you to remove this harmful provision from the budget.

Sincerely,  
Mary Lincoln  
76 Cottonwood Way  
Manchester, NH 03102



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Joleen Dooley <joleen35@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:44 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB544

Dear senators,

I am writing to ask you to remove the language of HB544 from the New Hampshire budget when it comes up for your consideration. Please reject government censorship and overreach.

This divisive legislation would:

Shut down important conversations about racism sexism and implicit bias, violate 1st Amendment rights and invite costly lawsuits.

As members of the Senate finance committee your task first and foremost with addressing the budgetary needs of New Hampshire. Please do not allow this non-germane effort to distract you from the fulfilling your legislative and fiduciary responsibilities.

Thank you,  
Joleen Dooley  
Bedford, NH

Sent from my iPhone

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Melissa Hinebauch <mmhinebauch@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:48 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NH Constituent who opposes you slipping HB 544 language into the budget

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Do you truly understand the HB 544 language that has been inserted into the budget? Have you talked with your constituents? Please talk with some **professors** at UNH, Keene State, and Plymouth State. Talk with some **doctors** at Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Concord Hospital, and the Elliot. Talk with **local business leaders** in Nashua and Portsmouth. Talk with people who **host presidential debates** in our state like St. Anselm and Dartmouth College. Do you actually understand the implications of this bill?

You must take out this language in HB 2 that is a clear attempt at 1) government over-reach 2) thought policing 3) protecting racists and sexists in the state.

You will find that HB 544 violates 1st amendment rights, invites costly lawsuits, and shuts down conversations about race.

**I guess you want the First In The Nation primary to be held somewhere else. Because with HB 544 language, we can't hold presidential debates or press conferences in NH anymore if we can't discuss "divisive concepts."**

NH needs to talk about race, sexism, and inequality - not censor important conversations.

Sincerely,

Mel Hinebauch  
Concord, NH 03301



Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
Senate President Chuck Morse  
Senate Minority Leader Donna Soucy

May 3, 2021

## Regarding HB 544 and its inclusion in the New Hampshire State Budget

Dear Governor Sununu, Senate President Morse and Senate Minority Leader Soucy,

Many of our organizations are contractors, grantees, and/or partners with the State of New Hampshire, and we are writing to voice our strong opposition to HB 544: *An act relative to the propagation of divisive concepts*, and its inclusion in the proposed FY 22-23 state budget.

If passed, HB 544 would restrict businesses and organizations receiving funding from the state, from offering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training to employees. This infringes on our work and missions.

Our organizations in New Hampshire, nationally and globally envision a world where people and nature thrive. One way we are working to achieve this goal is through our commitment to making the outdoors a safe and welcoming place for all people. We are exploring the connections and history of land conservation with Indigenous Peoples and other marginalized communities, as well as working with communities that have historically suffered disproportionate environmental harm. To that end, we need to engage in active listening, deep and sometimes uncomfortable conversation, and authentic action to learn about and reverse the effects that both recent history, and centuries of systemic racism, have had on equitable and inclusive access to the outdoors. As organizations that work for the public interest, our constituency includes everyone in New Hampshire, regardless of gender, gender identity, religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, background, or ability.

The language in HB544 would inhibit us from engaging in these explorations, learning, and critical conversations, thereby negatively impacting our ability to make our organizations stronger, more effective, and more inclusive for the benefit of all people in our great state.

HB 544 is unnecessary, archaic and divisive, erecting barriers to much-needed learning about, and celebration of, the diversity in our workplaces, communities, and the world we live in. In New Hampshire, we are quick to celebrate our outdoor economy and quality of life, which depend on our iconic and diverse natural and recreational resources. As a State, we should encourage that same sense of celebration and learning in our workplaces and communities to foster innovation, allow creativity to flourish, and nurture a culture that is welcoming and inclusive for all.

We urge the Senate to remove HB 544 from the State Budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Arnold, Vice President for Conservation  
*The Appalachian Mountain Club*

Jack Savage, President  
*The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests*

Doug Bechtel, President  
*New Hampshire Audubon*

Roger Stephenson, Northeast Regional Advocacy Director  
*Union of Concerned Scientists*

Catherine M. Corkery, Chapter Director  
*NH Sierra Club*

Michele L. Tremblay, President, Board of Directors  
*New Hampshire Rivers Council*

Michelle Davis, Advocacy Program Coordinator  
*NH LAKES*

Kathy Urffer, River Steward  
*Connecticut River Conservancy*

Tom Irwin, Vice President & NH Director  
*Conservation Law Foundation*

Rob Werner, New Hampshire State Director  
*League of Conservation Voters*

Barbara Richter, Executive Director  
*NH Association of Conservation Commissions*

Mark Zankel, State Director  
*The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire*

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Margery Phillips <margeryphillips@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:08 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB544 language in Budget Funding proposal

Dear Honorable Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am a resident and registered voter in New Hampshire.

I am appalled that we are even considering funding attempts to censor and limit teaching about racism, sexism and implicit bias in New Hampshire. We should all be ashamed by this naked attempt to codify and enforce the systemic racism, sexism and implicit bias that exists in New Hampshire. I have found it nearly impossible to explain to my 7 granddaughters how this could possibly happening.

I respectfully request that you remove HB544 language from the budget proposal.

Margery Phillips  
2 Granger Circle  
Hanover, NH 03755

## Debra Martone

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**From:** James Costigan <jameswcostigan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY: Protect New Hampshire's Family Planning Program

As a current patient of Planned Parenthood, I urge the Senate Finance Committee to amend HB1 to include 9-month backfill funding for Family Planning and amend HB2 to remove the requirement for physical and financial separation of services. I am writing to share the difference this organization has made in my life.

I'm grateful for the compassionate, quality, affordable care that my local Planned Parenthood of Northern New England health center is able to offer me. I started T with Planned Parenthood on a recommendation from my therapist. I use a gel form, and they worked with me when I was unsure about injections. They made sure I felt safe and informed. Planned Parenthood provides reliable and compassionate health care to people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. Being able to receive trans care has changed my life.

As a trans man, it can be challenging to get gender affirming care. I'm grateful that it is an option for me. I know that only a few years ago, my options in New Hampshire would have been limited to just one health center. PPNNE's expansion of gender affirming care to every health center in New Hampshire has made it easier for me to receive the care I need. I am 100% comfortable and confident using Planned Parenthood services when needed.

The providers and staff that are respectful and kind. The non-judgmental care that PPNNE offers, and its affordability, take some of the pressures off navigating the otherwise complex health care industry. I'm grateful for the care that is provided to me and hope that this care will continue to serve others like me. It is completely unacceptable there are significant cuts to accessing preventive health care, and during a pandemic. Please avoid a public health disaster for the state of New Hampshire and oppose HB 1 and HB 2 as is, and provide backfill funding for reproductive health centers.

James Costigan

Dover, New Hampshire

May 3, 2013

New Hampshire State Senate Committee on Finance  
State House-State Chamber 107 North Main Street Concord, NH 03301

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Janet Perkins-Howland and I write to offer my written testimony in opposition to HB1 and HB2 as they pertain to state-sponsored reproductive services. My understanding is that HB1 underfunds the family planning program here in the state, especially for the next nine months. HB2 also unnecessarily restricts access to facilities that provide these essential services.

I have been practicing medicine as an obstetrician-gynecologist (OB/GYN) in Dover since the late 1990s, essentially my entire career. I am passionate about issues of reproductive justice and equity. In the past several years, I have had special training in shared decision-making, true informed consent, and trauma informed care.

One of my passions is birth control for women. Most likely you are familiar with some of the non-contraceptive benefits of birth control, such as control of dysmenorrhea or endometriosis, prevention of ovarian cysts, decreased risk of ovarian cancer and colon cancer, prevention/control of anemia, and treatment for premenstrual syndrome (PMS) and premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD). In addition, pelvic inflammatory disease (which can lead to infertility), rheumatoid arthritis, menstrual migraines, and the onset of multiple sclerosis can be prevented or delayed. Bone density is preserved, and asthma may improve. Endometrial hyperplasia (which can lead to uterine cancer) and benign breast disease can be controlled.

Some women use contraception to during a difficult time, or even to save their life. I'd like to quickly take you through two (out of many) examples of women who have benefited from access to state-funded birth control. I've taken the liberty of changing names to protect privacy.

Leann has been living at Lydia's House as she recovers from opioid and alcohol addiction. Frankly, she has been doing great. Years ago, she had first one, and then a second child taken away from her care as she was unable to safely be their mom. She worked really hard over several years to get well, and now she was in the amazing position to welcome her children back home. The last thing Leann knew she needed to do was to access reliable birth control. She chose permanent birth control in the form of a tubal ligation.

Nora was diagnosed with a cardiomyopathy after having her first baby. Her heart function was severely compromised, and in her current state she would have a significant risk of death if she became pregnant again. Still, she was young, hoped her medical condition would change, and wasn't ready for permanent birth control. She

wasn't a candidate for any type of estrogen due to risk of clotting, so she chose an intrauterine contraceptive device (IUD).

Multiple studies have shown that the very best way to decrease abortion is to have access to safe pregnancy prevention. Methods such as tubal ligation and the IUD make it so unlikely to become pregnant that abortion is never a choice that needs to be made. Providing the options of a long-term reversible contraceptive (LARC) such as the IUD or progesterone subdermal device called Nexplanon can change the course of a life. Data shows that providing access to these methods can decrease teen pregnancy rates, which in turn can increase the chance that young women finish high school and go on to college. It can help bring people out of poverty, and decrease their dependence on state aid in the long run. The IUD and other methods do not cause abortion, they prevent the need for it.

Besides birth control, reproductive health centers provide sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening and treatment, and cancer screens like the Pap smear and mammograms. Cervical cancer is in many cases a preventable disease, if caught early with Pap screening and treated appropriately. Mammograms are getting better all the time, and can help prevent later-stage breast cancer.

Undercutting contraceptive care is fiscally irresponsible, as it increases the chance of unintended pregnancies in many women who are trying to lift themselves out of poverty and are not in a great place to have a baby. These issues may be most important in rural communities in our state, where access to these services is limited.

For these reasons, I ask for you to oppose HB1 and provisions of HB2. The freedom, and the right, to plan a family and access birth control is sacrosanct, and fundamental.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony for the Finance Committee's consideration as you review HB1 and HB2.

<https://medicine.wustl.edu/news/access-to-free-birth-control-reduces-abortion-rates/>

<https://ihpi.umich.edu/news/access-birth-control-through-aca-drives-down-abortion-rate>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/07/health/kavanaugh-abortion-inducing-contraceptives.html>

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Robert J. Moses <rjconnect2@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:20 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1/HB544

I oppose HB544 and specifically the inclusion of HB544 into the budget bills

Robert Moses  
23 Auburn Street  
Concord NH 03301



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Brigid McNamee <brigidmcnamee@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:24 AM  
**To:** Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Voucher Language in the proposed Budget

Dear Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to you as a parent, a retired public school teacher and concerned citizen. My own children experienced a variety of educational choices in their schooling from public school, private school and home school. I know and appreciate the challenges parents face creating these opportunities for their children.

However, I strongly feel that it is wrong to use public money for parental choice. My children went to a private school for music. My neighbor's tax dollar should not be used for tuition for a private school. Strong public schools are assets to the communities that have them. We do not adequately fund public schools in NH. Just look at the disparity between a public school in Bow and a public school in Berlin. Diverting dollars from the public school will cause property taxes to go up. I am also concerned by the lack of oversight in how these monies are used. Finally, the voucher issue needs to be a stand alone issue with opportunity for the public to weigh in on and not included in the budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brigid McNamee  
Concord

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Lyn Lindpaintner <lynlin@bluewin.ch>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:26 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NH voter opposes HB 544 language in HB2

To members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am a retired doctor living in Concord, NH and I urge you to eliminate the disingenuous language of HB544 from the Budget.

The prohibition of discussing "divisive concepts" such as racial and gender equality contradicts every Granite State value I can imagine.

First of all, it is unconstitutional because it mandates censorship of ideas.

Equally important, it is based on faulty reasoning. The bill bans reference to unfortunate or shameful aspects of our country's history as though this is a way to make the nation stronger. Wrong! It is a sign of fragility and weakness to be unable to tolerate open debate.

As a health care professional, I know that conversations about past inequities in medical research and health care can cause moral discomfort. However, we cannot prioritize avoiding discomfort over the difficult conversations needed to eliminate gross inequities which result in loss of life and health. In the health care arena, the widely disparate maternal mortality rates and life expectancy between whites and people of color, as well as reduced access for people of color to health insurance, healthy food, excellent schools, and clean water and air are all issues that require our attention. It is inconceivable to me that this legislature would ban the difficult conversations required to move our State closer to an equitable approach to our citizens' health.

Thank you for opposing this dangerous and unconstitutional language in our State Budget.

Sincerely,

Lyn Lindpaintner, MD

Lyn S Lindpaintner, MD  
39 Via Tranquilla  
Concord, NH 03301

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Laurie <lgord23@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:26 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; Chuck Morse; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Weare resident opposes HB544 (language buried in proposed budget)

To the Senate Finance Committee,  
Please remove the HB544 language limiting discussion of topics of historical and current significance from the budget proposal. Censorship is unacceptable as is the manner in which this language was included.  
Remove this offensive language.  
Thank you.  
Laurie Gordon  
Weare

**Debra Martone**

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**From:** Yerdon Angela <drangelado@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:33 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov  
**Subject:** House Bill 2 \_ Oppose

Dear Member of Senate Finance Committee,

I am Dr. Angela Yerdon McLeod, DO, a faculty family physician, at the NH Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency at Concord Hospital. I have personally experienced, and supported and advocated for residents who have experienced microaggressions and sexist and racist remarks from patients that they have had to care for as well as from senior level attendings, yet our faculty and residency has no forum for dedicated training on how to respond to such traumatic acts. I wholeheartedly support having required educational programming with specific tools to help us teach and act on the repetitive examples of implicit bias, microaggressions , sexism and systemic racism that are happening frequently to our students, residents and even our own faculty physicians in hospitals, clinical environments and residency programs. HB2 would not only further limit the ability to respond and teach how to appropriately care for patients in these instances but would limit this necessary education.

Please oppose HB2 for better patient care and education.

Thank you.

Dr. Angela Yerdon McLeod

Bow, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Laurie <lgord23@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:49 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; Chuck Morse; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Weare resident opposes school voucher language

> To the Senate Finance Committee,  
> Please remove the school voucher language in the current budget proposal. My property taxes are high enough and must be used to support my local schools. Giving my money to folks to use any which way they want is unacceptable. If folks want to educate their children outside of the public schools, by all means let them. I just shouldn't be expected to pay for it. Thank you for removing the school voucher language from the proposed budget.  
>  
> Laurie Gordon  
> Weare

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Christy Bartlett <christydbartlett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:49 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** House budget HB1 & 2

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

In your review and work, please consider deleting HB544, which was added by the House to the budget. I have heard from many constituents that they agree it is a divisive, and probably, unconstitutional infringement on their First Amendment rights of free speech.

Beyond that issue, as a History major, many years ago at UNH, I know that discussing hard issues is important to today's society. Not only in context of history, but in our discourse of today.

Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Rep Christy Dolat Bartlett  
Merrimack 19  
Concord

**Debra Martone**

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**From:** Jenna Ward <jrward95@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:49 AM  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY: Protect New Hampshire's Family Planning Program

Hello,

As a resident of New Hampshire and an ardent advocate for liberty and freedom, I strongly urge the Senate Finance Committee to **amend HB1 to include 9-month backfill funding for Family Planning** and **amend HB2 to remove the requirement for physical and financial separation of services.**

These bills threaten the health, safety, and constitutional rights of New Hampshire residents on multiple levels. They make it nearly impossible for independent health centers to provide affordable and preventative health care, while also creating unnecessary barriers for NH residents to exercise their constitutional right to make choices for their bodies.

If these bills are not amended, the state of New Hampshire will have a serious public health crisis. Please consider this before the hearings tomorrow.

Best,

Jenna Ward  
Resident of Hampton, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Cindy <lmhope46@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:02 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Constituent Opposition to HB 2

Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As I'm sure you're aware that there are several controversial parts of HB1 and HB2. I'm writing to you specifically about line 76 of HB 2. Please take the time to actually read what I have written.

The published "Title" of HB 2 is — "relative to state fees, funds, and expenditures". However, line 76 has only a mere hint of anything to do with state fees, funds, or expenditures. Line 76 is HB 544, an anti-free speech and anti-education bill which has been covertly embedded into HB 2.

I hope you have all carefully read all of HB 544 — "relative to the propagation of *divisive concepts*". Here are some of the things I think are particularly outrageous: Part of the definition of *divisive concepts* is — "... includes any form of race or sex stereotyping or any other form of race or sex scapegoating." Included in the bill is the definition of "*race or sex stereotyping*" — "... ascribing character traits, values, moral and ethical codes, privileges, status, or beliefs to a race or sex, or to an individual because of his or her race or sex." Without question we who are "white" do have had innumerable privileges for over 400 years. Women got the vote only 100 years ago, and still do not get equal pay for equal work. Racism & sexist does exist in NH.

To prohibit speaking about & discussing the systemic racism and sexism that unquestionably exists in residents and governments of each of our 50 states will not make it lessen. **Hiding the truth about what racism & sexism is will enhance and perpetuate these harmful attitudes.** Clear and appropriate communication/education about what beliefs & behaviors come from deep-seeded racism & sexism should definitely be required within agencies of the State of NH — counties, cities, towns, school districts, school, college, or university, ... not made unlawful.

Sincerely,  
Lucinda Hope, M.Ed. (Tilton)



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Erin Kelley <ekelley@mrsd.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:02 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposition to House Bill 544 (HB2)

Good morning,

I am writing with concern about House Bill 544 (HB2). It is critical that teachers be uninhibited about content that would be prohibited by this bill, such as topics about racism and sexism. The content of many of the books, and other materials that are used and have been used in Monadnock Regional Middle High School's curriculum, whether they are classics or newer, pertain to these subjects. Furthermore, the world today is rife with events that make these topics applicable, relevant, and meaningful. As an educator, parent, and woman, I cannot support a bill that would trounce my ability to help students grapple with these matters in a safe learning environment. This bill would do nothing but send us backwards as a society. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully, Erin Kelley

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Erin Kelley M. Ed  
English Department Teacher  
Sports Literature and Crime and Justice In Literature and Grade 11  
GSA Advisory



(pronouns she, her, hers)

"The meaning of life is to find your gift.  
The purpose of life is to give it away" Pablo Picasso

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Corinne Dodge <corinnedodge@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:06 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** I am in strong opposition to the Budget Bill

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

My name is Corinne Dodge and I am a voter in Derry. Please add my e-mail testimony to the Senate Record. I am writing to oppose the proposed budget Bill. Please add \$90 million to the budget because the anticipated losses from the proposed budget means more downshifting of costs to local property taxpayers like myself. Thank for your your time.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Elaine Smith <elainetremblaysmith@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:13 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; Elaine Smith  
**Subject:** Help to improve the systems of care for older adults in New Hampshire!

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Please find a letter attached to this email.

I appreciate you taking the time to read and think about my message.

You may contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Elaine Smith

3 Lucier Park Dr, Hudson, NH 03051

401-952-7315



Elaine Smith letter to NH Senate Finance Committee

May 3, 2021

Dear Members of the New Hampshire Senate Finance Committee,

I'm writing this letter to ask you to take action and show your support for the older adults living here in New Hampshire. There are three ways I would like to see you show your support for the elderly citizens of our beautiful Granite State.

1. Support Governor Sununu's budget request to include critical increases in three (3) Medicaid services under the Choices for Independence Waiver (CFI): personal care, homemaker, and case management.
2. Help fill the gap in Adult Medical Day services by adding \$4.0 million to the state budget. This investment of state dollars over the biennium is a cost-effective way to keep older adults in their community longer. It also allows caregivers to continue working, contributing to their families and the local economy while their loved one is safe.
3. Restore the Governor's \$1.5 million for senior centers to support services to combat struggles with mental health and social isolation.

By supporting the above measures, you not only support the older adults of our great state, but your support extends to the families and caregivers of those in need of community based services.

I am one of those family members who would greatly appreciate your help in supporting the above measures. My mother, Lucille, was diagnosed with Alzheimers 4 years ago. For many years she worked as a secretary in a public school system in New Hampshire. She spent countless hours helping the students and staff above and beyond what was expected of her because she believed investing in those in her community would make it a better place for all. She helped create a nurturing environment for those she worked with, and she gave of herself endlessly. Her community benefited from her hard work over many years and it is time her community helped support her in her hour of need.

My mother attends one of the Easter Seals day programs in Manchester for those living with Alzheimers. This program helps provide support for her, but also allows my 80 year old father a chance to recharge his own batteries and seek care for his own medical issues while she is in their care. The program at Easter Seals has helped my family to keep my mom living in her own home rather than a costly alternative by providing the necessary care during her days - including meals, health services and socialization which is so vital to memory patients. Sadly, the Senior Centers that my mother previously attended have been closed due to the pandemic, and so the programs that Easter Seals and other agencies provide are invaluable and need your support now more than ever! Our senior citizens need to remain part of our communities as they age.

Please join my mother, Lucille, in her belief that investing in our communities makes them stronger for all. You can show your support for all the communities in New Hampshire by supporting the above measures.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and I sincerely hope you will act on it.

Respectfully,

*Elaine Smith, Hudson, New Hampshire*

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Barbara D. Reed <bdreed74@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:14 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 544 ( I am a NH voter/resident)

This bill is antithetical to the Constitution's First Amendment right guaranteeing Freedom of Speech. It espouses that refusing to allow any discussion by nearly anyone of racism/diversity training/education about these issues is "acceptable". It is NOT. It also prevents any discussion of the impact on people's access to medical care related to racial/ethnic disparities and those affected people's medical conditions compounded by their financial inequalities. I am hoping that there will be multiple successful court challenges against this bill that has been declared a law. Barbara D. Reed North Swanzey NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Welkowitz, Lawrence <lwelkowi@keene.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:18 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB2

NH Senate Finance Committee:

I would like to go on the record opposing the inclusion of HB544 in to HB2 as it relates to speech surrounding so called "divisive topics." As Chair of the Psychology Department at Keene State College I can attest that discussing "divisive topics" is at the heart of academics. Just today in my class in Clinical Psychology we discussed the problem of CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy) or brain damage resulting from playing football. After reviewing literature some in the class argued that football is too dangerous and should be banned at the high school level, while others argued that it was a student's "free choice" to play or not. The conversation was heated but essential to breaking down the core issues.

We have discussed other "hot topics" in this class including Freudian vs. behavioral interpretations of eating disorders, use of empathy and warmth vs. confrontation for Personality Disorders, and, yes, institutional racism in professional psychology (why are there so few Blacks in Psychology?).

We simply cannot avoid what this bill refers to as "divisive concepts" if we are to effectively review and discuss many topics in my field. A vote for inclusion of HB544 in HB2 is a strike against Socratic dialogue and the academic process.

Lawrence Welkowitz  
State House Representative, Cheshire District 4/Keene Ward 1

Lawrence Welkowitz, Ph.D.  
Prof. of Psychology  
Chair, Dept. of Psychology  
Keene State College  
Keene, NH 03435-3400

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Gena Cohen Moses <genacohenm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:39 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1/HB2 Multiple Objections

Senators:

I am writing to express my concerns with several matters that have, or appear likely to, sneak into the budget bill instead of receiving treatment as stand alone bills. Burying these controversial matters in the must-pass budget bill violates the promise of transparency the state government espouses.

Specifically, I have written before and continue to strongly object to the “**divisive concepts**” language previously known as HB 544. The fact that three white men have taken it upon themselves to decide what concepts are divisive and objectionable for our schools and state contractors to discuss is pernicious. As a Jewish person and a woman, the prohibited topics hit particularly close to home. It is unbelievable to me that the the Legislature would try to dictate statewide on this topic in defiance of vaunted “local control” of schools and in the face of strong public and executive objection.

I also strongly object to the proposed **funding reductions at DHHS**. As a CASA volunteer I am acutely aware of the workload of the Child Protection Service Workers and other DCYF staff I interact with. Despite legislative and executive support following the high profile death of two children several years ago, these workers continue to be overwhelmed with high case loads that make it difficult for them to interact with CASA and follow up on the needs of children and their families. It is difficult and time consuming to fill positions for social workers and the elimination of funded but unfilled positions will hamstring DCYF into the future and, once again, endanger vulnerable children.

Finally, I am a strong supporter of local public schools and I object to provisions in the budge bill that increase funding for **school vouchers**. It seems clear to me that if parents feel that local public schools are not able to meet the needs of their children the solution is to increase the ability of the public schools to do so. More funding and more resources could allow public schools to address the needs of all children. Stripping funding from schools in order to set up separate, private “schools” that are *parochial* in every sense of the word fractures our communities, leaves the most disadvantaged (who cannot afford private schools even with “scholarships”) behind and ensures that NH residents will not have a common body of knowledge with which to enter the modern workplace. Eliminating the public school experience in NH will destroy one of the cultural touchstones that binds us as a state.

I am a resident of Concord, NH and I ask that this email go on the record.

Thank you for your attention.

Gena Cohen Moses



Concord Main Office  
21 Chenell Drive  
Concord, NH 03301  
603.228.9680  
800.826.3700  
603.225.3304 (fax)  
www.gsil.org

## Written Testimony

Delivered via email to Committee Members

HB 1 and 2

May 4, 2021

Senate Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Daniels and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am Deborah Ritcey, President & CEO of Granite State Independent Living (GSIL). GSIL is a state-wide non-profit organization who advocates for and provides services to more than 1,800 granite staters with disabilities to allow them to live independently in their homes and communities. Included among those services are home and community-based personal care services provided under the Choices for Independence (CFI) Medicaid waiver program; we currently are servicing over 500 consumers. We request that as you set priorities for the state budget, please include increased funding for these very important personal care services, which are crucial to allowing our consumers to live independently.

As the last year has proven, keeping people at home has been the safest place to age. Choices for Independence services offers a high level of care, establishing these folks to be clinically eligible for nursing home care. As we look at the financial comparison of having a person confined to a nursing home at roughly \$53,000/year versus the average cost of a member using services under the Choices For Independence waiver at roughly \$20,000/year, we continue to provide essential services at a greater value through a program Granite Staters prefer to use, especially in the final stages of our pandemic. It's critical for you to factor in the financial injustice and imbalance that exists between these two long-term care options for seniors. We are affordable and offer quality care.

CFI providers, such as GSIL and others, have struggled for years under the financial inequities of these two pathways in both rates and workforce. Our goal is to ensure those that can, stay at home to age with dignity, but our programs are consistently overlooked in favor of nursing home care. This is clearly illustrated by the Governor's *Emergency Order #42 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 as Extended by Executive Orders 2020-05 and 2020-08; Authorizing temporary health partners to assist in responding to the COVID-19 in long-term care facilities*. This executive order placed precedence on nursing home care and took from the very workforce pool CFI providers are struggling to employ due to the inadequate rates for CFI services. Community based providers can't compete with nursing homes, nor should we. As a state, we can and must do better by offering options to our constituents, options which keep them in the least restrictive environment possible; this should be a lesson learned from the COVID pandemic.





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21 Chenell Drive  
Concord, NH 03301  
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603.225.3304 (fax)  
[www.gsil.org](http://www.gsil.org)

Our statewide workforce shortage is compounded by the exceedingly low reimbursement rates. Daily tasks performed by our workers include assisting consumers with bathing, bowel/bladder care, dressing, and feeding; the very basic necessities of life, not otherwise available to them unless they were in a nursing home. These are essential workers, both to the consumers they serve and to the home-based care programs that thrive with the proper resources.

Bottom line is wages; our funding limitations mean we cannot offer workers a competitive wage compared to other entry level and service sector jobs. As a Medicaid only provider, we are limited by the Medicaid reimbursement rates which have not kept pace with inflation for over a decade, putting us at a severe competitive disadvantage and limiting the reach of our programs. We respectfully request that the Committee approve additional funds to be allocated to CFI providers as proposed in Governor Sununu's budget. This line item will allow us to remain competitive by offering workers a live-able wage. This request is for the many people who want to remain at home with familiar faces and surroundings. This is a challenge that is not subsiding soon, remember that New Hampshire has the second oldest population in the country. This should be a budget priority.

Without this increase, our challenge hiring personal care workers will continue and likely worsen, and more consumers will be prohibited from remaining in their communities, forced to turn to nursing home care. These men and women ask for the dignity to choose their home. We can do it as long as we have the workers to help them get out of bed in the morning, get meals, and take care of daily personal needs.

Thank you on behalf of our attendant care employees and the consumers we are proud to serve.

Sincerely,

Deb Ritcey, President & CEO  
Granite State Independent Living

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Sherman, Ilyssa <jv2@wildcats.unh.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov  
**Subject:** ORAL TESTIMONY: Protect New Hampshire's Family Planning Program

Good evening. My name is Ilyssa Sherman. Thank you so much for giving your time this evening to hear my testimony. As a former patient of Planned Parenthood and current sexual and reproductive health nurse at the Loving Health Center, I strongly oppose HB 2. This budget makes it impossible for reproductive health centers to be a part of the New Hampshire Family Planning Program because of unnecessary requirements designed to defund abortion care providers. This language is clearly only intended to make it impossible for reproductive health centers to participate in the Family Planning Program, even though 79% of patients in the program are cared for at reproductive health centers. I have been one of those patients.

In 2016, I was running for political office, planning a wedding, and struggling with managing a chronic reproductive illness. To further complicate things, my father unexpectedly passed away at only 52-years-old 2 months before my wedding. As you can imagine, it completely turned my world upside-down. To make matters even worse, I had just turned 26 and was relying on my father for health insurance until my wedding. When he passed away, my only option was to go on COBRA; however, there was a waiting period so I had to go without insurance for about two weeks.

During this time, I had a flare up with my endometriosis, which had been formally diagnosed in 2014. I had been seeing a specialist to manage my condition during this time, but I could not afford to see her without insurance.

I was in pain (both physically and emotionally) and extremely uncomfortable.....so I made an appointment at my local Planned Parenthood health center. Planned Parenthood completely surmounted any care I had been given in the past. The staff was kind, respectful, and provided the patient-centered care I needed at the time. The provider listened to me, she offered to help me find grief counseling, and she provided me timely, effective care to help me through an exacerbation in my illness. In a time in my life when I felt so incredibly broken, the staff at Planned Parenthood helped me start the process of picking up the pieces.

Now fast forward to 4 years later. In 2020, I accepted the position of the Reproductive and Sexual Health Nurse at Loving Health Center with the goal of giving back to my community. Now I can speak as a patient and as a caregiver to this population. I cannot express to you enough how harmful this bill will be to my patients. I could spend days talking about this, and I would if this were an option. My job as a nurse is not only to give unbiased, safe, quality care to my patients, it's to advocate for them both at the bedside and on a larger macro level. Many of our patients have low incomes or are uninsured and rely on the low or no-cost services provided through the Family Planning Program. My patients DESERVE to be heard. My patients DESERVE access to preventative care. Patients have been coming to Loving for over 40 years. Every single day I provide the essential care to our community. The very care that is trying to be stripped away. Provision 3 of the Code of Ethics for Nurses from the ANA states "the nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, and safety of the patient." Furthermore, it affirms reproductive healthcare as a universal right. As a registered nurse, I am asking you: please don't take their care away - especially during a time when accessibility is already an incredibly large barrier.

To conclude, reproductive health services are so greatly needed for people all across New Hampshire. I can speak for this as a patient and as a provider of care. It is completely unacceptable that this budget prioritizes slashing access to preventive health care, especially in the midst of a pandemic. If finalized, this budget will cause an undue physical and psychological burden on people all across NH and will also result in a public health disaster for this state.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to share my story. I wholeheartedly urge you to oppose HB 2.

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** sducharme@roadrunner.com  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:48 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 544

To the Finance Committee,

I oppose the language and intention of HB 544 and urge you to remove it from the budget. Reinforcing white supremacy in NH educational institutions by limiting how history is taught and discussed is dangerous policy.

I hope you'll agree as the bill is finalized.

Thank you all for your time and energy.

Respectfully,

Sue Ducharme  
E. Wakefield, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Rev. Jason Wells <jason@nhchurches.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 12:00 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Senate Finance: Written testimony on HB1&2, regarding faith-based budgeting priorities  
**Attachments:** Final-NHCC-Budgeting-Statement-2012.pdf; Demands For A Peoples Budget - Long Form + Logos April 26 2021.pdf

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Earlier today I wrote asking you specifically to reject the former HB544 provisions now placed in HB2. I wanted to write you separately about the budget priorities coming from many faith communities in New Hampshire. From their witness, I urge you to oppose HB1 & 2 as they are currently constructed.

Our reason for this opposition is expressed in the attached Joint Statement on Budgeting, passed unanimously by the 9 member denominations of the NH Council of Churches in 2012. The statement draws on the Christian Scripture, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21, Luke 12:34).

As a Christian statement, it goes on to say:

*Any proposed budget, then, should take particular care to adequately provide for those who are dependent on the state for their standard of life. This includes, but is not limited to, the mentally, physically, or developmentally disabled, the impoverished elderly, children, and the unemployed. It is essential that all of God's children, including the poor and sick, the old and young, are able to receive the providence necessary to maintain quality, meaningful lives. The budget should also take care to protect the environment, which is God's creation and one of New Hampshire's greatest resources, and to promote justice and equality by providing for basic human needs in health care, education, housing, etc. It should spread its burden and rewards fairly while not excluding some from our state's bounty and opportunity.*

The NH Council of Churches believes that the House budget before you does not meet this high standard. We have express support for the People's Budget priorities, developed by state-based, grassroots coalition and believes that it would better "put our money where our heart is."

Please find the People's Budget priorities attached to this email, with explicit support from the NH Council of Churches and many of its faith partners: Quakers, Episcopalians, the United Church of Christ and more.

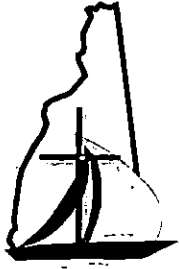
I look forward to being with you all tomorrow during the budget hearing.

With gratitude,

Rev. Jason Wells

--

Rev. Jason Wells, Executive Director  
NH Council of Churches, PO Box 1087, Concord, NH 03302-1087  
(603) 219-0889 + <https://www.nhchurches.org>



# New Hampshire Council of Churches

*People of faith strengthening New Hampshire communities.*

PO Box 1087, Concord, NH 03302-1087 (603) 224-1352 [www.NHChurches.org](http://www.NHChurches.org)

## Joint Statement on State Budgeting

The New Hampshire Council of Churches, an ecumenical Christian body of ten diverse denominations including Protestant, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christian traditions, believes that adopting a budget is essentially a moral and value-based process, rather than a strictly fiduciary one. We urge our government to examine closely the budget it proposes to determine whether its provisions are fair and just.

Christian Scripture tells us that, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34) With these words, Jesus reminds us that the choices we make in spending both reflect and reinforce our values. If we are careful to pay attention to issues of morality when planning the state budget, not only can we be confident that our resources will be used wisely, but we can also rest steadfast in the strengthening of our shared future for the common good. However, if we pay closer attention to other matters, such as political gain or personal interests, we become complicit in eroding our social value system.

Any proposed budget, then, should take particular care to adequately provide for those who are dependent on the state for their standard of life. This includes, but is not limited to, the mentally, physically, or developmentally disabled, the impoverished elderly, children, and the unemployed. It is essential that all of God's children, including the poor and sick, the old and young, are able to receive the providence necessary to maintain quality, meaningful lives. The budget should also take care to protect the environment, which is God's creation and one of New Hampshire's greatest resources, and to promote justice and equality by providing for basic human needs in health care, education, housing, etc. It should spread its burden and rewards fairly while not excluding some from our state's bounty and opportunity.

Our state government's mandate comes from the people, and ultimately, from the God who calls each person to civic duty. We urge our lawmakers to assess any proposed government budget as a document that reflects New Hampshire's best moral values, and who we are as children of God.

*Adopted by the Board of Directors May 20, 2010*

*Member Denominations: American Baptist, Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Friends, Greek Orthodox, Presbyterian Church/USA, Roman Catholic, United Church of Christ, United Methodist, Unitarian Universalist*

# **Demands for a NH People's Budget**

**New Hampshire people deserve a state budget that invests in our communities' health, education, recovery, opportunity, and vitality. In order to achieve this, we also need fair and adequate taxation that invites all of us to contribute to the common good, in accordance with our ability to pay.**

**With this in mind, we demand the following as elements of a People's Budget for New Hampshire:**



- Invest in our recovery from COVID-19, with full funding for public health; economic stability for renters, homeowners and small businesses; increased access to broadband internet and equipment for remote learning; and remote access to public meetings.
- Invest in real economic security, by addressing the needs of low-income families for financial assistance for food, heat, housing and transportation. Include undocumented and mixed status families as eligible for these investments.
- Invest in our state workers, with a living wage, good benefits, and fulfillment of our obligations for their dignified retirement.
- Invest adequately in public education including adult education so that all NH people have an opportunity to learn and to achieve their full potential. Do not erode these investments with vouchers which drain much-needed funding for public education.
- Invest in our young adults, who deserve affordable higher education, student loan debt relief, and access to affordable rental housing.
- Invest in people with disabilities and their families, by fully funding all disability services and supports.
- Invest in our children, their parents and caregivers, with affordable, high-quality childcare.
- Invest in our elders, with supports for aging in place and relief from burdensome property tax rates.



- Invest in health, mental health, reproductive health and dental health, so that all New Hampshire people have access to high-quality, affordable health care, reproductive health care, mental health services, dental care, affordable medications, a robust network of community health workers as well as paid family and medical leave and paid sick leave.
- Invest in community safety, with first responders who meet the needs of the situation, including social workers as well as emergency medical assistance. Public safety for our communities is not more policing; public safety is an investment in more community resources like housing, good jobs, small businesses, mental healthcare and crisis centers for domestic and sexual violence. The safest communities do not have the most police, they have the most resources allocated to the well-being of its members.
- Invest in affordable housing by allocating adequate funds to the New Hampshire Housing Trust Fund and creating housing that is affordable and available to the lowest-income households and houseless people in our state.
- Invest in our environment, promoting energy conservation, renewable energy and sustainable agriculture, with laws for the re-use of plastic containers and packaging, with better recycling opportunities and incentives for businesses and the home.
- Invest in public transportation, with promotion of energy-efficient and clean transportation and incentivized carpools.

- Invest in harm reduction and overdose prevention that moves us away from punitive measures to community solutions that center people's health and well-being. This means addressing substance use disorder (SUD) as a health condition and not a crime, using evidence-based public health strategies. We cannot effectively deal with SUD without addressing the underlying issues in our communities that make it difficult to cope with life's overwhelming struggles.
- Invest in educational programs and supportive services for all incarcerated persons so as to create opportunities for their well-being and success.
- Promote decarceration and new beginnings for formerly incarcerated people, with mental health and drug courts, increased opportunities for parole, community-based alternatives to incarceration, readily-available post-release housing and support for employment and community re-integration.
- Invest in our democracy with laws that support fair elections, such as fairly-drawn districts, easy and secure voter registration for all citizens, and no-excuse absentee voting that is accessible to disabled, elderly, and working voters.
- Invest in BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities, recognizing they are the most impacted by injustice and that as a state we must right our wrongs and discontinue practices that disadvantage BIPOC Granite Staters. Truth and reconciliation for Black, indigenous and immigrant communities is a necessary first step.

- Invest in the vitality of rural communities, with infrastructure to support full access to all services required for health, education, employment, transportation and communication.
- To fund these investments, we call upon our New Hampshire State Government to fairly tax the wealthy and corporations which operate in New Hampshire. Tax cuts for the wealthiest Granite Staters severely reduce state revenues and therefore lead to continued underinvestment in needed services. Our tax system must be designed so that New Hampshire people and businesses contribute to the common good according to their ability to pay.

Sincerely,

The NH People's Budget Coalition:

NH Poor People's Campaign

NH Voices of Faith

American Friends Service Committee

Granite State Organizing Project

Rights & Democracy NH

Granite State Progress

350 New Hampshire

Kent Street Coalition

Unitarian Universalist Action NH

NH Council of Churches

NH Youth Movement

The Episcopal Church of New Hampshire

Change for Concord

NH Conference United Church of Christ Economic Justice Mission Group



## **SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**May 4, 2021**

**HB 1-A and HB 2 FN-A-L – Relative to the State Budget for State Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023**

### **Testimony**

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Steve Ahnen, president of the New Hampshire Hospital Association (NHHA), and I am here representing all 26 of our state's community hospitals as well as all specialty hospitals.

I am pleased to join you today virtually to share our thoughts with you as you begin the challenging job of developing the state budget for the next biennium. We look forward to working with members of the Legislature on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the State House as this process moves forward in the weeks and months to come.

New Hampshire's hospitals and the health care heroes who work in them are driven by a mission to provide high quality health care and improve the health and well-being of the communities they serve. To their communities, the blue and white H promises health, healing and hope when it's needed most, and New Hampshire's hospitals remain committed to caring for their communities and ensuring access to quality, compassionate care.

That is true every day, and that resolve has certainly been demonstrated throughout the past year, however hospitals have been challenged as we have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. When COVID-19 arrived in New Hampshire, hospitals became the front lines of defense against the highly contagious and dangerous disease. We immediately worked collaboratively with our partners at the community, state and federal levels to ensure we had the resources and capacity to care for all of our patients, but most importantly, to prepare for what was predicted to be a significant surge in COVID-19 patients. From securing scarce personal protective equipment, standing up additional capacity to treat COVID-19 patients,

cancelling non-urgent, elective procedures, standing up testing capacity around the state, and so much more, hospitals have responded with great compassion and dedication to ensure their patients were able to get the care they needed.

The pandemic has challenged us all and, working together, we believe we can emerge from this crisis, but it will take great care and diligence to ensure that New Hampshire does so and that we are able to serve citizens across the state and help everyone return to what we all hope will be a much more normal, vibrant and healthy New Hampshire.

State funding for the Medicaid program has been the source of significant controversy and debate over the past several years. It is absolutely essential that we have a robust and effective Medicaid program that helps to ensure recipients are getting the right care, at the right time, and in the right place. Resolution of the many challenges just a few years ago over the Medicaid Enhancement Tax (MET) and the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payment program was an important step forward to creating stability in the Medicaid program for patients, providers and the State of New Hampshire. The provisions in HB 1 put forward by Governor Sununu are consistent with that settlement agreement and it is important that they remain as part of the budget as it works its way through the Legislature.

And we are very appreciative that the Medicaid rate increases that were included in the last budget are maintained in the current budget before the Senate. These modest increases were designed to make NH Medicaid rates more sustainable over time, and maintaining those increases going forward is an important step in those efforts.

A budget is designed to address key priorities in the State, and there are many as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is no more urgent and pressing priority than addressing the behavioral health crisis facing New Hampshire. We appreciate the tremendous amount of work and effort that is being done in this area to-date, but it is imperative that this budget, as well as other legislative and regulatory efforts, collectively design a plan forward and articulate how it will be funded and carried out in the months and years ahead.

The 10-year mental health plan was built as a blueprint for rebuilding a behavioral health system across the full continuum of care and services for those suffering a mental health issue. The ongoing crisis of patients waiting in hospital emergency departments (EDs) until they can be transferred to New Hampshire Hospital, Hampstead Hospital, designated receiving facility (DRF) or other appropriate settings for their care continues to be all too common. The waitlist is truly a symptom of a broader, systemic problem. We simply do not have adequate resources across our entire system to care for those with a mental health issue. We are appreciative of the ongoing efforts of so many to address these challenges, but they simply cannot happen fast enough.

As we have said before, any plan that is focused on solving the totality of the behavioral health crisis must have a clear focus on addressing the challenge of patients waiting in EDs today, tomorrow, next week and next year. It needs to be part of a comprehensive solution that, in

addition to increased inpatient capacity to solve the ED boarding crisis, provides increases for community-based services across the continuum of care in outpatient, mobile crisis, crisis stabilization and many others so that patients can access care and treatment before their condition becomes a crisis, as well as after discharge so that they are able to live and function in the community with the supports necessary to maintain a healthy life.

Mr. Chairman, we are very concerned about the addition of non-budgetary policy provisions that were added to HB 2 during the House phase of the budget, specifically that which seeks to incorporate HB 544 related to "divisive concepts." Our hospitals and the dedicated caregivers who serve their patients every day strive to do so with the utmost care and respect for every patient. And they work to foster a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion within their organizations to attract and retain a workforce to deliver the highest quality of care to all their patients.

Inclusion of HB 544 related to divisive concepts will have a chilling effect on the important work that is occurring throughout the health care system to better serve all patients without respect to race, religion, sexual orientation or identity, among others. The language of HB 544 that was inserted into HB 2 is not reflective of the rich heritage and diversity that we believe make New Hampshire such a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family, and we ask that the Senate remove it from the budget.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to share a number of our key priorities for the budget and I would be happy to respond to any questions you might have.



May 3, 2021

Honorable Gary Daniels, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
State House Room Senate Chambers  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Via Electronic Mail Only

*Re: NHMA Testimony on HB 1 and HB 2*

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) members' concerns with HB 1-A and HB 2-FN-A-L, as approved by the House. NHMA is a nonprofit, non-partisan membership association representing all 234 cities and towns in the state. Our mission is to improve the ability of New Hampshire cities and towns to serve the public, which we do in part through the advocacy of member-driven legislative policy positions.

#### History of the State-Municipal Partnership

For decades, the state has been a partner with municipalities in different “revenue sharing” and “cost sharing” programs that are critical to the economic health and well-being of both our communities and the state. As explained in NHMA's Municipal State Aid and Revenue Sharing publication, these have included programs that fund infrastructure improvements for roads and bridges and for water and wastewater facilities; make contributions to the cost of public safety personnel and teachers; and provide general property tax relief to offset public service expenses unique to each municipality and revenue to compensate for the loss of part of the local property tax base when the state reformed how businesses were taxed.

In 2010, to weather the state's recovery from the recession, there were significant reductions in every one of these municipal state aid programs. Although the economy rebounded in the last few years, the level of state aid did not. In fact, in 2020, before the pandemic, total municipal aid and revenue sharing was \$41.9 million below the 2009 level (see attached chart). These long, ongoing aid reductions are of a magnitude that could not be offset by local spending cuts; consequently, they have inevitably led to increased property taxes.

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N E W H A M P S H I R E M U N I C I P A L A S S O C I A T I O N

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NHMAinfo@nhmunicipal.org • governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org • legalinquiries@nhmunicipal.org

www.nhmunicipal.org

### Proposed FY 22/23 Budget

Funding for municipal programs remains suspended, frozen, reduced, or eliminated in the proposed budget. **In fact, this budget further reduces state aid by approximately \$40.6 million over the current biennium.** This, unfortunately, leaves local property taxpayers to continue shouldering the financial burden of providing essential public services that benefit the broader economic health of the state. We know legislators are hearing from constituents about this burden, with many representatives and senators expressing the desire to provide property tax relief. However, even though the state has fared much better in this COVID-19 pandemic than originally projected and will receive substantial federal funds to replace lost revenues, the current version of the FY 22/23 biennial budget does not provide needed relief.

Using current Department of Revenue Administration's "high" meals and rooms tax revenue projections, which would provide a \$15 million increase in the municipal distribution, HB 1-A provides total state aid to municipalities in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 at only 66.8% of the level provided during the FY 08/09 biennium when the recession hit. The attached chart illustrates the significant reductions municipalities—and their taxpayers—have seen in state support. With Governor Sununu declaring, "We're keeping our commitment to cities and towns by providing millions in additional revenue sharing...after years of inaction..." and citing the economic recovery and current growth in state revenues, we believe the time has come for the state to renew its commitment to the state-municipal partnership.

We urge you to consider the following changes to the House approved budget:

- Amend Section 41 by eliminating the suspension of RSA 31-A and restore the statutory revenue sharing to provide municipal aid (reference made to SB 118).
- Amend Section 100 of HB 2 to include an increased distribution of meals and rooms tax revenue to return the percentage of municipal distribution to 40 percent as intended and set forth in RSA 78-A:26, or as proposed by SB 99. ARPA funds may be used to replace decreased state revenue, and this provides an excellent opportunity to provide relief for both the state and municipalities.
- Provide funding that reflects a commitment to transportation infrastructure improvements.
- Amend HB 2 to increase the budgeted distribution of municipal bridge aid if significant additional federal funds are received under the APRA allowing such infrastructure investment. Current funding allows only 5-6 bridges to be completed per year, while 223 municipal bridges remain on the Municipal Red Bridge list posted on March 21, 2021.
- Eliminate Section 32 of HB 2 and restore the state aid grant funding for all wastewater projects previously approved by the governor and executive council; amend HB 1 to restore this \$15.6 million in funding.
- Amend Section 60 of HB 2 to include the state aid grant funding put forth in SB 127, Parts VII and VIII for water and wastewater facilities, and lift the December 31, 2019, moratorium.
- Amend HB 2 to restore a percentage of employer retirement contributions for teachers, police, and firefighters, as proposed by SB 72.



### The American Rescue Plan: An Opportunity

The federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is an important factor in this biennium state budgeting process. We encourage the Senate to work with towns and cities and the NHMA, the state water and wastewater associations, the Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission, executive and legislative leaders, and the Department of Environmental Services to take advantage of a very timely and unique opportunity to meet the critical clean drinking water and water pollution needs of New Hampshire. We believe ARPA (plus the potential American Jobs Plan) provides an excellent opportunity for our local and state governments to work together to maximize the deployment of these federal funds and make significant investments in water and sewer infrastructure. **This includes the opportunity to fulfill the state's commitment to fund the state aid grants for towns, cities, and village districts, who, in good faith, budgeted for and completed projects in "partnership with the state"—even through the pandemic when other parts of the economy were shut down, ensuring the preservation of public health, economic stability, and jobs.**

Although the U.S. Treasury Guidance, which is not yet available, will include specific information about how these federal funds can be spent, we urge Senate Finance to work with the Senate and House leadership to seek collaboration among all stakeholders with the goal of developing a plan to use the funds targeted for the state, municipalities, and village districts for these purposes. We believe such a plan can be strategically deployed to maximize the fulfillment of existing water and sewer funding programs designed to encourage and support the economic viability of completing needed infrastructure projects throughout the state. By proactively and collectively addressing this statewide infrastructure need now, we will not miss a valuable opportunity to achieve several very positive and mutually beneficial goals, such as:

- Replace aging infrastructure and build new infrastructure targeted for the removal of identified drinking water contaminants to preserve the natural resources necessary to support our state's business and economic development to ensure we can continue to promote our high rankings in health for generations to come. Clean drinking water and water pollution control are certainly one of our highest health priorities.
- Lift the moratorium on state aid grant projects completed after December 31, 2019.
- Fully fund the state aid grant programs set forth in RSAs 486 and 486-a, which will
  - Restore the public and municipal trust in the state in meeting its statutory obligation.
  - Strengthen the valuable state and local partnership to achieve this mutual requirement.
  - Encourage and provide economic incentive for approval of local projects, benefitting both individual communities and larger regional targeted areas.
  - Provide and ensure funding sources which can be utilized **before** a project needs to utilize the finite monies in the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund.
- Maximize the use of this available public investment which will in turn, attract new investment and return general fund revenues to the state such as increased meals and rooms tax, business profits tax, and real estate transfer tax.

The goal of ARPA funds is to expedite recovery and revitalize the economy as we move past the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of New Hampshire's cities and towns, we stand ready to assist and

Honorable Gary Daniels, Chair of Senate Finance  
May 3, 2021  
Page 4 of 5

provide whatever necessary resources we can to help the budget process meet New Hampshire's water and sewer infrastructure needs.

On behalf of our member cities and towns, we urge the Senate Finance Committee to recommend a biennial budget that *restores the partnership between the state and its municipalities*. As you are aware, local budgets are funded primarily through property taxes; as a result, every state budget that does not restore revenue sharing or include funding for state-created programs puts further strain on taxpayers. We urge the committee to support a collaboration which builds upon the state and local partnership to maximize the deployment of new federal funds, and we urge the committee to appropriate funds to municipalities so they can continue to deliver public services critical to the economic vitality and quality of life in the State of New Hampshire.

Thank you for your consideration of our members' concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or if we can provide further information.

Respectfully,

Margaret

M.L. Byrnes

Digitally signed by  
Margaret M.L. Byrnes  
Date: 2021.05.03 10:21:34  
-04'00'

Margaret M.L. Byrnes  
Executive Director

*Becky Benvenuti*

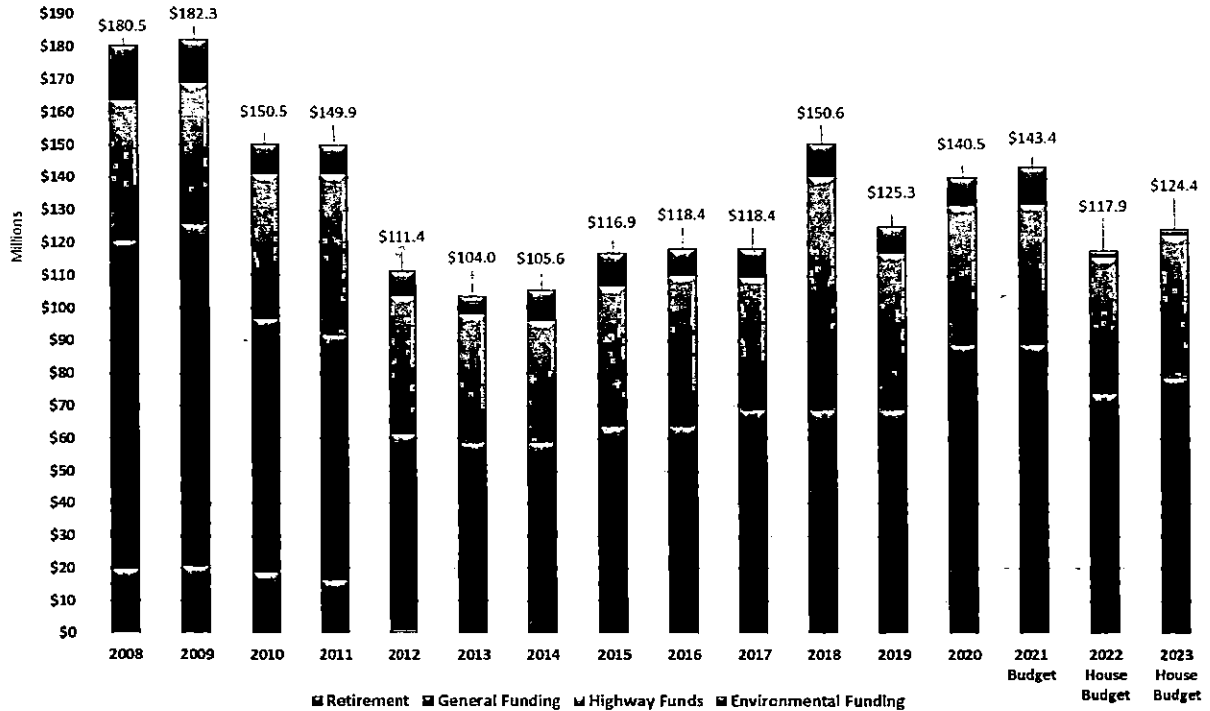
Becky I. Benvenuti  
Government Finance Advisor

Attachment (next page)

cc: Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Chuck Morse, Senate President  
The Honorable Sherman Packard, House Speaker  
Matthew Mailloux, Budget Director  
NHMA Board of Directors

**STATE AID TO TOWNS & CITIES: 2008-2021**  
**HB 1, HB 2 (House Finance Budget): 2022-2023**

Note: This graph includes the full amount of Meals & Rooms Distribution "Allowed For" by HB 1 operating budget, which is dependent upon FY 2021 revenue being at least \$5 million greater than FY 2020 revenue.



Data Sources: NHTLBAO State Aid Charts, 10/20/20 and 4/05/21;  
 HB1, HB2 - House Finance Operating Budget and Budget Trailer Bill, 3/31/21  
 DRA 4/19/21 Revenue Projections



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**PUBLIC HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION**

Improving Health, Preventing Disease, Reducing Costs for All

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[www.nhpha.org](http://www.nhpha.org)

The Honorable, Chair Gary Daniels  
Senate Finance Committee

May 4, 2021

Re: HB1 and HB2

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joan Ascheim and I am testifying on behalf of the New Hampshire Public Health Association, a statewide membership organization representing over 200 health care and public health professionals who for more than a quarter of a century, have advocated for policies that improve the health of New Hampshire's people.

There are three priority areas we urge you to consider as you work through the state budget:

**Funding Community Health Workers**

Part III of SB 104 sought funding for a Community Health Worker at each Public Health Network in the state but was removed through an amendment. The deployment of Community Health Workers was a recommendation from the governor's COVID-19 Equity Response Team report as an effort to lift-up some of our most vulnerable people during the pandemic and beyond.

***We ask that you add \$1.2 million in the State Budget to support a community health worker in each of the state's 13 public health networks.***

- A community health worker is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member with an intimate understanding of the community they serve.
- This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison or intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.
- There is a large body of research now relative to community health worker effectiveness in improving health outcomes, reducing health care costs and bridging gaps in health disparities.
- A recent study found that when community health workers addressed the needs of disadvantaged people in the Medicaid program, a return of \$2.47 was realized for each dollar spent. (Downloaded from Health Affairs.org on February 11, 2020. Health Affairs 39, No. 2 (2020): 207-213 H)

2018 Affiliate of the Year of the American Public Health Association

## Primary Prevention for Families

SB 140 sought funding for several programs for families including: community collaborations, family connections, home visiting and family resource centers to eliminate funding gaps for these programs. Funding for these programs also was removed as the bill proceeded through the senate. As families continue to recover from the economic and social effects of COVID and strive to balance the ongoing daily challenges of work, school, and parenting, these programs are more important than ever.

***We ask that you add \$1.37 million to the budget to fully fund these primary prevention programs for families.***

- All these programs work to improve parent-child interaction, reduce maltreatment, and increase skills for regulating behavior and increasing coping.
- Young families, particularly those who struggle due to lack of opportunities and who live in stressful environments, benefit greatly from such programs.

## Striving for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The language of HB 544 now included in HB 2 seeks to prevent New Hampshire state agencies, contractors, and schools from teaching concepts relative to diversity, equity, and inclusion. At a time when our country is trying to confront the injustices of systemic racism, hate crimes, and health inequities that have been illuminated through the pandemic, this bill is dangerous and does not reflect the values of the people of New Hampshire. The pandemic health disparities seen among people of color only highlight previously known disparities in infant and maternal mortality, heart disease, breast cancer and stroke among others. If, we in public health, cannot educate students, public health professionals and policy makers about such inequities, we only perpetuate them. ***We ask that you remove the language of HB 544 from HB 2.***

Respectfully,

Joan H. Ascheim, MSN  
Policy Volunteer  
New Hampshire Public Health Association  
[Jascheim2@gmail.com](mailto:Jascheim2@gmail.com)

May 4, 2021

Senator Daniels, Chairman  
N.H. Senate Finance Committee  
Senate Chamber, State House  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: House Bill 2, (section 52), *Imposes strict liability on any person who renders any highway unsuitable for public travel, including full and current replacement cost.***

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Committee:

This office represents the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association (“NHTOA”).

NHTOA is a non-profit, state-wide coalition of landowners, forestry industry professionals, government officials and supporters working together to promote better forestry management, to conserve working forests, and to ensure a strong forest products industry, within New Hampshire.

We appreciate the opportunity to present on Section 52 of House Bill 2. Because forest products and the equipment are used to harvest and process such products they must be transported on state and municipal highways, such that we have an interest in the Section.

As proposed, House Bill 2 will modify **RSA 236:39 Civil Liability** by defining “full and current replacement costs” and changing the liability status for persons who, “without authority, shall place any obstruction in a highway, or cause any defect, insufficiency, or want of repair of a highway which renders it unsuitable for public travel.” Although the NHTOA does not have an opinion on the proposed definition to “full and current replacement costs”, it strongly opposes the addition of “strictly” to the liability standard.

While preparing this presentation I caught a drafting error in that House Bill 2. House Bill 2 fails to annotate the proposed changes in Section 52’s paragraph I. The current civil liability standard in RSA 236:39 is “liable”, meaning obligated at law, being essentially a negligence standard. House Bill 2’s addition of “strictly” to liable significantly and inappropriately raises the standard. Raising the standard to “strictly liable” removes the court’s ability to consider prudent actions the motorist may have taken when the damage to the highway occurred, nor does it allow for a full review of the circumstances and conditions leading to damages claimed. This is particularly harsh, making a party liable for damage, without defense, when the type of condition leading to liability is very vague itself, where the person accused “shall place any obstruction in a highway, or cause any defect, insufficiency, or want of repair of a highway which renders it unsuitable for public travel.”

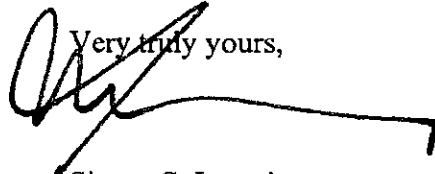
Senator Daniels, Chairman

May 4, 2021

Page 2

A simple example would be the placement of a safety cone adjacent to a stopped or disabled vehicle on the highway shoulder. If that cone were to cause an accident that damaged a guardrail, under the current standard of "liable" the court could consider the actions taken when the cone was placed when assigning liability for the guardrail damage, as opposed to under the "strict" standard. Under the current standard, the court could consider whether the person's actions when placing the cone were prudent when "strictly" is not applicable (i.e. did the cone's placement minimize an already dangerous situation, what was the cone's proximity to the disabled vehicle, its proximity to the travel lane, etc.). Simply put, using a "strictly liable" standard, the court is bound to only consider "was the cone placed in a highway".

For these reasons on behalf of NHTOA we are advocating the removal of "strictly" from the proposed language. Again, we appreciate the opportunity to present the support for NHTOA on this matter.

Very truly yours,  
  
Simon C. Leeming

SCL/mc  
Enclosures

## Debra Martone

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**From:** annemarie johnson <anniemjohnson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 12:11 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov  
**Subject:** ORAL TESTIMONY: Protect New Hampshire's Family Planning Program

- Consider this scenario: You are a server, working a double shift in a mask because your restaurant is understaffed since they reopened. You start to feel discomfort mid shift, three hours later you are urinating every ten minutes and the pain is approaching excruciating. You've developed a urinary tract infection. Restaurants don't offer health insurance, like thousands of other NH employers. You were paying for private insurance but couldn't afford the four hundred dollar a month premiums when your restaurant closed for the first six months of the pandemic, so you had to drop it. You had secured medicare but when you went back to work, you lost it - your income went over the 1100 a month cutoff for one month out of five. You look on the internet for home remedies and go buy cranberry juice. Despite drinking three gallons, you are crying with the pain by the end of day two, and end up going to the ER around midnight. You wait three hours, embarrassed, in pain and weeping, but their triage had to be modified for Covid protocols and they're understaffed. Eventually they treat you, prescribe you medications, and two weeks later send you a bill for 1800 dollars. You make 1700 dollars a month in a rare very good month at 3.26 an hour plus tips, and spend almost every penny of that on rent, groceries, and bills. You know you can't pay, and every time the phone rings your stomach sinks.
- Alternate scenario: You call Planned Parenthood from the restaurant. They tell you that there are walk in time available later that day. You go directly from work. After you fill in the intake forms, they inform you that your income qualifies you for free care. While there, the doctor gives you AZO and prescriptions for your infection, and then offers to do a routine STD panel, and you agree. You mention that you often experience debilitating cramps, the doctor counsels you on options for modifying your birth control to manage your symptoms better. You walk out in under an hour with new birth control, prescriptions for follow up medications, with no bills, and total peace of mind.
- These are not fantasy scenarios, but the reality of what is at risk. If this budget were to become law, thousands of Granite Staters like me would be at risk of losing access to critical, lifesaving health care. This isn't a talking point or hyperbole. For thousands of people, underinsured or uninsured, which is in my experience the default situation of the bottom third of the New Hampshire population by income earned, there are no other viable options waiting in the wings to step in and take up this mantle. The average hospital ER, in a pandemic, can not take on the task of providing these thousands of people with routine testing, early intervention for HIV exposure, checkups, and providing birth control and free contraception. Those people will either take on astronomical medical bills, or more likely, they'll go without care. And if supporters of this "separation language" say that they will somehow save the taxpayer money, they are significantly misleading their constituents. We know that preventative healthcare saves taxpayer dollars at a rate of \$1 spent for \$7 saved.



- At the end of the day, the politicians pushing this budget clearly don't care about our health. They're so invested in driving a false narrative about reproductive health care, and New Hampshire patients like me will be the collateral damage. We seem to be living in a time where facts are secondary to the narrative of propaganda, but here are the facts: Planned Parenthood serves a huge community, literally 72% of the entire Family Planning Program, and their services throughout New Hampshire ensure that anyone -- ANYONE -- can access birth control, cancer screenings, checkups, and STI testing.

Extra thoughts, time permitting.

- We should all be able to agree that funding these types of preventative services is good for the health of our communities and the overall economy. The only way to disagree with that statement is to make another: that preventative and reproductive healthcare is a rarified privilege reserved for those rich enough to be well insured or pay out of pocket, and only they deserve healthcare. But that's not what our state should stand for, and the budget needs to reflect our values.
- It's even more alarming that the House has chosen to defund reproductive health care providers in a pandemic when many people have foregone routine care. We should be working on expanding access to these services, not stripping them away. I urge you to amend HB2 to take out the ridiculous physical and financial separation requirements on reproductive health care providers.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Wednesday OA in Wilder <wedwilder0a@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 12:33 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Budget!

I am a NH citizen, voter, business owner and tax payer.

I urge you to reject the budget as it is being presented.

DHHS needs to be fully funded, empty positions, essential to the health and well-being of many NH citizens must be filled.

Remove the dangerous language that has been carried over from HB544. There is NOT where NH wants to go.

Remove the school voucher provisions. We must support and improve public education for all NH children.

Thank you.

Lianne Moccia

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Sabina Chen <sabina.chen.clark@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 12:36 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NH Voter opposes HB544 "ban on divisive concepts." Please remove language from budget.

Dear Member of Senate Finance Committee:

I urge you to remove the language of HB544 from the state budget. HB544 is a clear violation of First Amendment rights. If we cannot teach our youth how to discuss "divisive concepts" in a civil manner, then we are doomed to become an autocracy. Who gets to decide what a "divisive concept" is? The government? How is this not government overreach?

Sincerely,

Sabina Chen  
Pelham

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Elizabeth O'Malley <elizabethleeomalley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 12:50 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Written Testimony for 1:00 pm , HB1 on 5/4/2021

To the NH Senate Finance Committee,

I write in opposition to the inclusion of any form of HB544 in the budget – opposing its ignorant content and exclusionary purpose. HB544, “Relative to the propagation of divisive concepts.”, is fundamentally unjust. Our country is regrettably built on the silencing of minority groups and violence towards them, and HB544 perpetuates that silencing through the denial of lived experience, denial of systemic inequities, and failure to imagine a future grounded in education, integrity, and empathy.

Please see HB544 for what it is - means of denying the harsh reality of sexism and racism in New Hampshire (and throughout the country) disguised as a bill for equality. This bill is a shameful attempt to bolster gross inequity and impede any chance of progress on reaching a more fair and inclusive future for everyone. This bill must not be passed, and additionally has no place in the budget.

With due concern,  
Elizabeth O'Malley  
*Resident of Rye Beach, NH*

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Diane Raymond <diane.raymond@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 12:55 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Burying HB 544 inside HB2 - a sneaky move

Dear Senators,

Regarding HB2, please remove the absurd language (taken from FAILED HB544) about banning the discussion of bigotry. It is unrelated to budget and doesn't belong there. It's a stupid idea, anyway.

Sincerely,  
Diane Raymond  
Nashua NH

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Julia Griffin <julia.griffin@hanovernh.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 1:07 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Senate Finance Committee Public Hearing on HB1 and HB2 - Town of Hanover Testimony

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As Town Manager for the Town of Hanover, I would respectfully request your consideration of the following state budget funding requests as part of your public hearing on HB1 and HB2 being held on May 4th:

- **HB2 -State Aid Grants (SAG):** The House budget proposes **\$0** each year for **existing** state aid grant (SAG) payments previously awarded and approved by the Governor and Executive Council, resulting in the defunding of 160 projects for a reduction of \$15.6 million from the governor's budget. Hanover has two projects on that list, totaling \$100,000 in annual SAG revenue. We would ask that the Senate fully reinstate those payments for projects that were funded at the local level assuming that the State would make good on its match commitments. These payments should not simply be made if unrestricted general fund revenues are above the budgeted plan on December 31, 2021. If the payments are not funded, Hanover will be forced to raise wastewater rates effective July 1<sup>st</sup> to offset the loss, which will impact both Hanover and Lebanon wastewater customers given that the Town serves all of northern Lebanon, including DHMC.
- **SB 99** returns the municipal share of meals and rooms tax to 40 percent. Hanover believes that it is time the State of NH stepped up to fully fund its statutory obligation rather than balancing its budget on the backs of local government to avoid a broad based tax. Sadly, although state revenue from the tax has increased 67 percent in the past 10 years (\$204 million to \$340 million), the amount distributed to municipalities has increased only 17 percent (\$58.8 million to \$68.8 million). As a result of the State's unwillingness to fully comply with your statutory obligation, the Town of Hanover has foregone \$4,283,808 in meals and rooms tax shared revenue over the past decade, which translates to an approximate 5% increase in our General Fund tax rate per year – an increase which would not have been necessitated had the State abided by its obligation. This is particularly unfortunate given all the infrastructure and staff support local communities provide to their hospitality businesses. The notion that NH does not support a broad-based tax is a fallacy. Due to irresponsibility at the State level, that broad based tax is the property tax, regressively applied and therefore negatively impacting many individuals living on fixed incomes.

**TOOL TO CALCULATE IMPACT TO YOUR TOWN OR CITY**

**RE. SB 99-FN**

Using: 1) LBA's Meals & Rooms Municipal Distribu  
2) DRA's FY 2021 Meals & Rooms Distributi

| Year of Distribution | Total Annual Revenue Meals & Rooms Tax<br>(For Year Prior to Distribution)<br><i>Source: State of NH CAFR</i> | ACTUAL TOTAL<br>Municipal Distribution \$ Amount | 40% of Total Annual Revenue | Town or City<br>Actual Distribution \$ Amount | Town or City<br>% of Total Municipal Distribution | Town or City<br>PR \$ / 40% |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2011                 | \$ 228,300,000                                                                                                | \$ 58,800,000                                    | \$ 91,320,000               | \$ 482,853                                    | 0.8212%                                           | \$                          |
| 2012                 | \$ 228,900,000                                                                                                | \$ 58,800,000                                    | \$ 91,560,000               | \$ 502,956                                    | 0.8554%                                           | \$                          |
| 2013                 | \$ 231,700,000                                                                                                | \$ 58,800,000                                    | \$ 92,680,000               | \$ 505,476                                    | 0.8597%                                           | \$                          |
| 2014                 | \$ 241,200,000                                                                                                | \$ 58,800,000                                    | \$ 96,480,000               | \$ 502,186                                    | 0.8541%                                           | \$                          |
| 2015                 | \$ 254,000,000                                                                                                | \$ 63,800,000                                    | \$ 101,600,000              | \$ 544,879                                    | 0.8540%                                           | \$                          |
| 2016                 | \$ 272,700,000                                                                                                | \$ 63,800,000                                    | \$ 109,080,000              | \$ 546,771                                    | 0.8570%                                           | \$                          |
| 2017                 | \$ 292,800,000                                                                                                | \$ 68,800,000                                    | \$ 117,120,000              | \$ 587,782                                    | 0.8543%                                           | \$                          |
| 2018                 | \$ 306,200,000                                                                                                | \$ 68,800,000                                    | \$ 122,480,000              | \$ 591,093                                    | 0.8591%                                           | \$                          |
| 2019                 | \$ 322,500,000                                                                                                | \$ 68,800,000                                    | \$ 129,000,000              | \$ 583,216                                    | 0.8477%                                           | \$                          |
| 2020                 | \$ 340,100,000                                                                                                | \$ 68,800,000                                    | \$ 136,040,000              | \$ 585,406                                    | 0.8509%                                           | \$                          |
| 2021                 | \$ 306,800,000                                                                                                | \$ 68,800,000                                    | \$ 122,720,000              | \$ 582,032                                    | 0.8460%                                           | \$                          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>        | <b>\$ 3,025,200,000</b>                                                                                       | <b>\$ 706,800,000</b>                            | <b>\$ 1,210,080,000</b>     | <b>\$ 6,014,651</b>                           |                                                   | <b>\$</b>                   |

- SB 118:** Although cities and towns certainly appreciate the sentiment behind the “property tax relief act of 2021,” which would distribute \$20 million in municipal aid for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023, these one biennium payments are not helpful, particularly if local communities are required to utilize 60 percent for property tax rate reduction. Artificially reducing the property tax rate by any one-biennium State-shared amount without sustaining that support over time only intensifies strife at the local level once the temporary support disappears and tax rates must once again be raised by the offsetting amount. Communities would far prefer placing one-time funds into capital reserves, undesignated fund balance or utilize the funds for one-time expenditures that benefit the community as a whole. Given that the State has never given cities and towns a voice in the draconian reductions in State aid, why has the State earned the right to dictate what we do when any funding is restored? Individual communities are fully capable of making the best decision for their residents when it comes to local expenditures, budgets and tax rates. Hanover requests that if the Senate chooses to insert this funding into the budget, that you remove the requirement that 60% must be used to lower property taxes.
- SB 127,** Parts VII and VIII, lifts the moratorium and provides funding for state aid grants (SAGs) for new eligible public water system projects (\$1 million) and new eligible wastewater projects (\$12.6 million) in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Eligible projects include 11 projects completed before December 31, 2019, but held back from receiving state aid grant monies appropriated in the current budget biennium, plus 110 new projects identified as eligible for funding in 2022-2023. Quite frankly, Hanover is no longer interested in applying for SAG grant funding given that the State has become a wholly

unreliable funding source. Hanover's initial engineering study for phosphate and nitrogen removal from our wastewater was identified as one of 110 projects eligible for funding but Town staff and the Selectboard have opted to pull our application. We cannot afford to be left empty-handed on any further projects simply because the State chooses to walk away from their funding commitments.

- **SB 72**, the "taxpayer rescue act of 2021," requires the state to pay 15 percent of employer retirement contributions for teachers, police, and firefighters. The bill is an opportunity to honor a promise that was broken when the state eliminated its long-standing 35 percent contribution in 2013. As a result of that action, political subdivisions have paid more than \$729 million dollars in additional employer costs—costs that will increase 20 percent effective July 1, 2021, with the newest rate increase. Hanover's share of that cost has been a loss of over \$3.0 million since 2009, amounting to a tax rate increase of more than 3% annually attributable to that State cost-shift. Hanover argues that it is time for the State to step up and restore their subsidy.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Julia N. Griffin*  
*Town Manager*  
PO Box 483  
Hanover, NH 03755  
(603) 643-0701  
Julia.Griffin@hanovernh.org

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OFFICE OF  
SELECTMEN

## The Town Of Newington New Hampshire

Established 1713

NH Senate Finance Committee  
Chair Gary Daniels  
Vice Chair John Reagan  
Bob Giuda  
Cindy Rosenwald  
Erin Hennessey  
Lou D'Allesandro  
Chuck Morse

April 12, 2021

Re: Water Pollution Control Projects- Support for HB1 & 2

Dear Committee members,

On Wednesday, the House defeated **Floor Amendment 1093h** which would have restored the statutorily required \$15.6 million state aid grant payments for the 162 water pollution control projects in the state's 56 political subdivisions. The vote to restore the funding failed on a roll call vote of 186 to 197.

All funding for state aid grants, which was included in the Department of Environmental Services' efficiency budget and in the Governor's budget, has been removed from HB 1.

Failure to approve HB1, as proposed by the Governor, will cost the town of Newington \$149,174 this year. This will place an extreme financial burden on our businesses and town of 800 residents if not passed.

HB 2 also places a moratorium on all projects completed after December 2019. We also need the Senate to add the *additional \$12.6 million* needed for substantially completed projects eligible for funding in the next biennium which is included in SB 127.

Respectfully,  
Board of Selectmen

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy "Ted" Connors, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Marconi

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Blonigen



April 19, 2021

The Honorable Gary Daniels  
Chair, Finance Committee  
State House, Senate Chamber  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chair Daniels and Members of the Committee,

Our society is built on the foundation of on-demand access to clean water. It's essential to our health, environment, economy, and quality of life. In New Hampshire it is easy for us to take this resource for granted because it has been readily available to us our entire life. Yet, relatively few of us understand the hidden infrastructure that gets this valuable resource from the environment safely to our taps, then treats it to an acceptable level for release back into the environment. Even fewer of us really understand the cost.

Recent actions in the House have called into question the value that our elected officials place on providing a clean water environment in the Granite State.

- The trailer bill HB 2 places a moratorium on all projects completed after December 2019, and eliminates \$12.6 million needed for substantially completed projects, effectively denying a number of communities the funds for eligible projects that are currently underway and moving toward completion in the next biennium.
- Floor Amendment 1093h was defeated. This amendment would have restored the statutorily required \$15.6 million state aid grant payments for 162 water pollution control projects in 56 political subdivisions across the state.

Due to these actions, the budget and budget trailer bills have come to you, the Senate Finance Committee, absent the funds to pay the statutorily-required annual principal and interest payments that were previously approved by the past Governors and Executive Councils. Some may argue that Federal dollars may be headed our way specifically for infrastructure, so why use state funds at this time? Like most of our infrastructure, water and wastewater systems have been underfunded for decades and the investment required in these systems over the next 20 years is estimated at \$4.8 trillion for U.S. drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. The state provided funds are just a drop in the proverbial bucket.

Roughly 90% of Americans strongly support increased investment in clean water systems. Your efforts to address and correct this situation will be truly appreciated not only in the 55 affected communities, but throughout the State. Everyone has a responsibility to protect our water resources by working together to keep it clean and healthy for today and the future. As such, each of us has a valuable contribution to make.....WHAT WILL YOURS BE?

Sincerely,

Michael Carle, President NHWPCA

*Celebrating  
54 Years  
1967-2021*

Michael Carle  
*President*

Robert Robinson  
*Vice President*

David Mercier  
*Secretary*

Mario Leclerc  
*Treasurer*

Ryan Peebles  
*1st Director*

Mike Theriault  
*2nd Director*

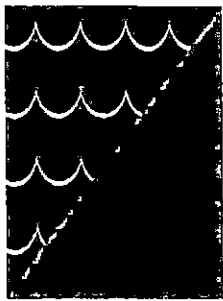
Aaron Costa  
*3rd Director*

Nate Brown  
*1st Director-at-Large*

Peter Conroy  
*2nd Director-at-Large*

Steve Clifton  
*NEWEA Director*

Ken Conaty  
*Past President*



NH

WATER  
POLLUTION  
CONTROL  
ASSOCIATION

*Celebrating  
54 Years  
1967-2021*

Michael Carle  
*President*

Robert Robinson  
*Vice President*

David Mercier  
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Mario Leclerc  
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Ryan Peebles  
*1st Director*

Mike Theriault  
*2nd Director*

Aaron Costa  
*3rd Director*

Nate Brown  
*1st Director-at-Large*

Peter Conroy  
*2nd Director-at-Large*

Steve Clifton  
*NEWEA Director*

Ken Conaty  
*Past President*

May 4, 2021

The Honorable Gary Daniels  
Chair, Finance Committee  
State House, Senate Chamber  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chair Daniels and Members of the Committee,

Environmental State Aid Grant (SAG) funds provide financial assistance to New Hampshire communities for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects. Municipalities finance the full cost of the project up-front, complete construction, and then apply for payment of the State share. The State reimburses a municipality 20% or 30% of the eligible costs incurred (depending on the community's sewer user fee) and a proportionate share of interest on borrowing for the project (usually paid by the State over the amortization period of the municipal financing).

The amount of funding for SAGs began declining in 2008. Funding appropriations have been intermittent since this time and some projects, all having achieved substantial completion by December 31, 2019, have not yet received funding appropriations. In addition, approximately 120 wastewater projects qualifying for State aid of \$12.4 million during fiscal years 2020-2023 remain unfunded.

As currently written, HB2 Section 62 places a moratorium on the awarding of new grants until June 30, 2023 unless the State general fund unrestricted revenues as reported by the department of administrative services are above the revenue plan. It also places a suspension on State payments for existing grants for the 22/23 biennium. There are three issues we believe are counter to what the Granite State stands for:

- A consistent lack of State investment in our drinking water and wastewater systems sends the message that these systems are solely the responsibility of local communities and the federal government. **Without clean drinking water and wastewater treatment protecting our waterways, the monies collected from the Meals & Rooms tax that funds the State would not be possible.**
- Suspending payments on existing SAGs for the 22/23 biennium is, in effect, breaking a contract to 56 communities by not funding payments for 160 Governor and Executive Council approved projects. **These communities will now be left scrambling to determine how to absorb the portion of funding promised by the State.**
- Large infusions of investments from the federal government to fund these crucial projects are not ideal. Water is the gas in our economic engine. You don't put gas in your car every 50 years and then only perform maintenance until the next time you refill. **Continuous streams of investment are crucial to ensuring these systems are adequate and affordable for the communities and businesses they serve.**

We are at an inflection point, one in which the consequences are dire if we fail to act. We cannot continue to take for granted something we use every single day. We use it to drink, shower, and flush. We use it to brew, bake, and recreate. This is a defining moment. *Now is the time to invest in water infrastructure.*

Sincerely,

Michael Carle, President NHWPCA



## NH WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

18 N. Main St., Suite 308 | Concord, NH 03301  
[www.nhwwa.org](http://www.nhwwa.org) | [info@nhwwa.org](mailto:info@nhwwa.org)  
(603) 415-3959

NH State Senate – Finance Committee  
State House, Room 105  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

May 5, 2021

Subject: Testimony on HB-1 and HB-2

Dear Chairman Daniels and Senate Finance Committee Members:

I am writing to document our Association's strong support that the FY2022 – 2023 budget meet statutory commitments to public water infrastructure made by RSA 486 and RSA-486:A. Specifically:

- Eliminate Section 32 of HB-2 and restore all State Aid Grant (SAG) funding for previously approved projects. Amend HB-1 to restore this \$15.6 million in funding.
- Amend Section 60 of HB-2 to include the SAG funding proposed in SB 127, Parts VII and VIII.
- Lift the December 31, 2019 moratorium on SAG funding.

The SAG program is the mechanism used to award State funds – one of the three legs of the federal-State-rate payer partnership - required to reliably provide safe, clean and affordable public water. Being a responsible partner for public water is the best investment the State can make for both citizen and economic health.

In 2005 the SAG received roughly \$17.5 million in State funds (see chart from NH Municipal Association at the end of this letter). Based on 2005, the inflation-adjusted amount for 2021 should be roughly 36% higher or \$23.8 million, a value that is much lower than 1 percent of the proposed FY2022-2023 budget. Instead, the House-proposed budget, and even the values we are advocating for above, are far less.

There are roughly 2,500 regulated public water supply systems in New Hampshire that serve a combined population of more than 550,000 residents. Much of this infrastructure is 30+ years old and requires significant investment to meet current and evolving operational and water quality standards. The November 2013 "SB 60 Report" identified 10-year costs of \$2.9 billion to maintain our water infrastructure, with the lion's share required for drinking and wastewater services (chart below). Experts agree this number has only become larger since the report was written.



## NH WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

18 N. Main St., Suite 308 | Concord, NH 03301

[www.nhwwa.org](http://www.nhwwa.org) | [info@nhwwa.org](mailto:info@nhwwa.org)

(603) 415-3959

We understand that substantial federal funds are likely coming and that allocating those funds to provide optimum long-term value for the State is an important decision. We believe that the State and local water users should also have some financial “skin in the game” to meet shared societal needs. Working together to take advantage of this generational opportunity to restore and sustain our public water infrastructure is something we very much look forward to.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions. Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

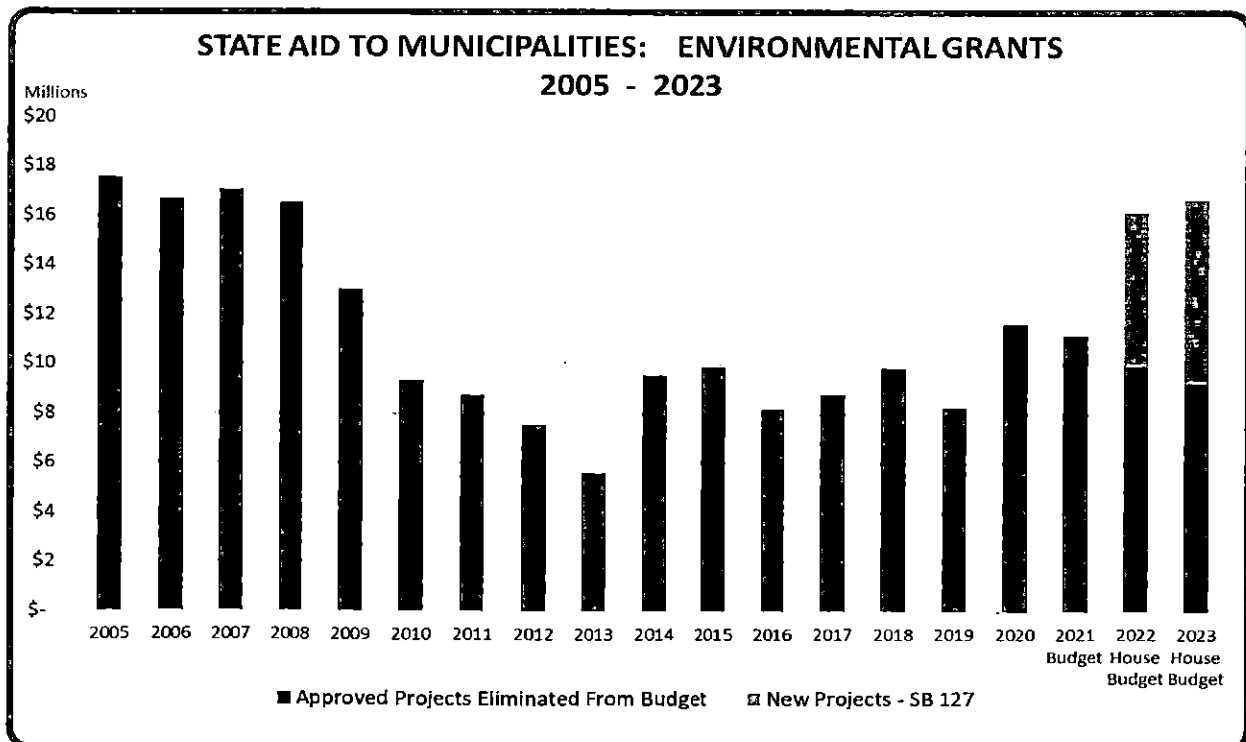
Boyd Smith, Executive Director

Cc (via email):

The Honorable Chuck Morse, Senate President

The Honorable Sherman Packard, House Speaker

### State of NH Funding for Water Infrastructure (April 2021)





**NH WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION**

18 N. Main St., Suite 308 | Concord, NH 03301

[www.nhwwa.org](http://www.nhwwa.org) | [info@nhwwa.org](mailto:info@nhwwa.org)

(603) 415-3959

**NH SB60 Report (Nov. 2013, pg. 10)**

| <b>Infrastructure Type</b> | <b>10 Year Need</b>           |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wastewater                 | \$1,710,000,000               |
| Stormwater                 | \$272,000,000                 |
| Drinking Water             | \$857,000,000                 |
| Dams – State Owned         | \$18,000,000                  |
| <u>Dams- Municipal</u>     | <u>\$40,000,000</u>           |
| <b><i>Total</i></b>        | <b><i>\$2,897,000,000</i></b> |



April 12, 2021

Gary Daniels, Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
State House Senate Chambers  
Concord, NH 03301

Via Electronic Mail Only

*Re: State Aid Grants for Water Pollution Control and Public Water Systems*

Dear Chairman Daniels and Committee Members:

I write to express the concerns of the New Hampshire Municipal Association about the absence and suspension in the House-approved budget of funding for state aid grants (SAGs) for water pollution control and public water systems.

In accordance with RSA 486 and 486-A and related administrative regulations, municipalities, with Department of Environmental Services oversight, plan, engineer, and finance the full cost of the project up-front and complete construction, including a 1-year warranty period, before they receive final approval and become eligible to receive the annual state aid grant payments, which is 20% to 30% of the eligible project costs. The state share (state aid grant) is paid to the municipality over the 20-30 year amortization period of the municipal financing (which is generally bonding or borrowing from the state revolving loan fund)—but only after final and formal agreement of the governor and executive council is executed, establishing the contractual obligation of the state to make these future payments in accordance with the statute.

The House Finance Committee's amendment to HB 1 and HB 2 to suspend these required payments affects 162 previously approved projects in 56 political subdivisions, creating budget deficits for these communities totaling \$15.6 million over the biennium. Most of the communities have already adopted their fiscal year 2021 budgets which rely on this promised aid to balance their budgets. These amounts will, therefore, need to be supplanted with higher water/sewer rates, increased property taxes, or unbudgeted use of reserves.

Although the amendment includes an option for the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to request limited additional appropriations to make these payments if state revenues exceed budget plan, the amendment does not address how possible additional amounts would be prioritized and distributed among the 162 projects. Further problematic is that this option cannot be exercised until after December 31, 2021: This restricts the town, city, or village district's ability to account for this revenue and offset the amount of property taxes required to be raised.

Honorable Gary Daniels, Chairman  
April 12, 2021  
Page 2 of 2

In addition to restoring funding for previously approved projects, there are 11 projects which were slated for state aid grant payment funding in the current biennium; but due to revenue concerns created by the pandemic, they were placed on hold. There are also 110 projects with completion dates after December 31, 2019, which DES has identified as being eligible for state aid grant payments in the next biennium. Annual payments for all 121 projects total \$12.6 million, and funding is included in SB 127 which is now on the Senate table. We urge you to include these monies in the state budget.

Furthermore, the House budget does not include any state aid grant funding pursuant to RSA 486-A for public water supply projects, while more than 15 currently eligible drinking water interconnection projects await grant approval. No new projects have received funding since 2008. In addition to funding, we also ask that you consider an amendment to RSA 486-A which would include construction of projects to address new standards for contaminants, such as arsenic, manganese and PFAS. As the state strives for clean drinking water consolidation to address source water contamination issues, fire suppression, and redundant source distribution to many public water systems, these efforts will also achieve lowering of health risk and cost to the general population that is drinking this water. The annual principal and interest payments by the state to help construct these projects (bonded at the local level) will enhance economic development and expansion of affordable housing that will be enabled by the quality and quantity of these water interconnection projects. This economic growth will, in return, generate increased state general fund revenues. SB 127 includes \$1 million of funding sufficient to fund the state's share of principal and interest payments for these eligible projects, and we ask that you include this amount in the state budget.

We ask that the Senate support and honor the state's partnership with its political subdivisions to protect the health of its residents and promote the state's and municipalities' economic growth by including these important state aid grant dollars in the state budget in accordance with RSA 486 and 486-A.

Sincerely,

*Becky Benvenuti*

Becky I. Benvenuti  
Government Finance Advisor



**TOWN OF TROY WATER/SEWER  
P.O. BOX 215  
151 DORT STREET  
TROY, NH 03465  
(603)-242-3890  
troywatersewer@gmail.com**

March 31, 2021

State House  
Denise Ricciardi  
Room 105-A -  
107 North Main St  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: State Aid Grant Program

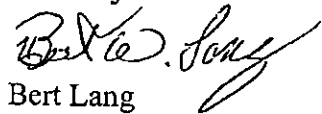
Dear Ms. Ricciardi,

It is our understanding that the Senate has voted unanimously on amendments to eliminate the total amount of state aid grant (SAG) from the Governor's budget. These state aid grants payments fulfill a promise made by the State to be partner in our local water and wastewater projects. Local taxpayers made their decision to approve the projects with the understanding that the SAG funds would reduce the local financial burden. These projects in many cases, would not have been affordable and therefore may not have been approved in the first place, without the promise of the financial partnership by the NH Legislature. To back out on that promise after the fact not only puts municipalities in an unanticipated financial bind, it also makes a clear statement about the true value of promises made by the State.

If these amendments are incorporated into the State Budget, the direct impact to the Town of Troy will be an additional 30% increase in property taxes. The impact of this tax increase could be devastating to our business and residents.

We are writing you asking for your support as we are in favor of funding commitments of RSA 486-A, as expressed in House Bills HB398 and HB312 and Senate Bill SB127, Parts VII and VIII

Sincerely



Bert Lang  
Town of Troy Water/Sewer  
Chairman of the Board

SEA / SEIU LOCAL 1984

# FACT SHEET



207 N. Main Street, Concord, NH 03246

## Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC)

SYSC provides vital services for the most serious juvenile offenders of NH and should not be closed. The youth that are detained or committed at SYSC require enrichment, structure, safety, education, treatment, and recreation. We need to be investing in them, not cutting services to this program/facility. If this facility is closed, youth will suffer, communities will suffer, and crimes such as human trafficking will continue to rise.

*"In New Hampshire, we do not "incarcerate" youth in a "correctional" facility. We detain or commit youth to a youth services center". James Plumer, New Hampshire Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer.*

The issue of the closure of The Sununu Center will come up in the Senate Finance Committee on May 4, 2021 (HB1 and HB2)

- The closing of the Sununu Center should be considered a stand-alone bill.
- This decision is being made too quickly, too soon.
- There should be an opportunity to study the process, find ways to mitigate damage, and understand unintended consequences such as the items listed below.

### 1. Effects on the NH Community and violent youth offenders:

- It is illegal to keep youth in adult prison facilities.
  - Youth scheduled to go to adult prisons are too dangerous and would not be accepted at any other facilities in New Hampshire.
  - Laws are strict on sentencing but loose on programming and treatment. Laws actually prevent effective treatment as no effective treatment can be conducted in the 3 to 6-month sentences currently considered appropriate.
- There has been a spike in violent crimes by youth over the last five years in New Hampshire. This spike includes murder, rape, child molestations (teenagers who offend younger children), and gun crimes. Certain kinds of sexual crimes also lead to rape and murder.
  - As a direct result of the above, the recidivism rate is currently in the high 90's percentage.

### 2. What happens to youth:

- There is a waitlist for placements in many out-of-state secure facilities.
- There are no other secure facilities in New Hampshire.
- There are no drug treatment programs for court-ordered kids. SYSC is currently the only option to protect them from OD and death.
- The same is true for youth who run away, endangering themselves; they get trafficked and involved with prostitution. All other residential programs are not secure; youth can and do run.
- Private placements have the right to refuse a youth admission. SYSC doesn't.

- Group homes and other options for youth in New Hampshire are not sufficient for these kids.
- There has been a dramatic increase in the use of LSD, Pills, Heroin, Meth, and Fentanyl by NH youth; what happens when they need help?
- Currently, there are no facilities available in New Hampshire for youth with gun/murder/rape charges other than SYSC.

### **3. Cost-Effectiveness:**

- Transportation to out-of-state facilities is \$10,000 for driving and \$4,000 for flights.
- Building a smaller facility or utilizing the current facility for Medicare reimbursable programs should be considered.
- There is no talk about what will happen to the facility and the property in the future.
- New Hampshire will have to pay the Federal Gov. \$13.4M to shut the facility based on the agreement for funding from the Federal Govt.
- Exploring the option for a new facility would cost millions:
  - Without a proper facility to house and treat the most dangerous youth offenders, the public is exposed to great harm.
  - Any facility (if a new one is constructed) must have 24-hour medical care, an accredited education program, recreational programming, and the ability to feed the residents and staff.
  - Any new facility needs to have 30 beds with an area for quarantine. The residential census has been as high as 22 in the past year, and no one knows what the future may hold.

### **4. Factors regarding Employment:**

- Under the current version of the bill, SYSC will close on 6/30/22.
  - There will be a significant loss of qualified, committed, and capable staff.
  - Losing staff as they seek other appropriate employment will create a crisis for which the state is not prepared.
  - Currently, hundreds of hours of overtime are worked each month. This demonstrates that the system is already beyond strained.
  - The plan to retrain staff for other positions in HHS is short-sighted and assumes no more need for staffing in a secure facility for youth.

### **5. Where and what are the options or the solutions?**

- What happens to youth if there is no facility?
- What happens to the facility if we do not use it for what it was intended?
- Where is the concern for families, victims, and the general public?
- Where is the plan for these youth following the proposed closure?
- Why won't House Leadership discuss options for keeping the facility open?

### **6. Support**

- State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice (SAG), Faith-Based organizations, Mayors, Police Chiefs, County Commissioners, Police Unions need to be a part of the discussion.
- NH State Legislature

## **INTERNAL USE AND REFERENCES ONLY**

**"Honestly, I think language is a big part of this. People hear secure and think prison. We hear secure and think safe. I don't know how to fix that." New Hampshire Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer.**

**"The Senate is going to fix it" - Lori Shibinette, Commissioner, DHHS.**

**References/supporting documents:** The study conducted by Alvarez and Marsal Public Sector Services, LLC on contract with New Hampshire recommended: Quoted below.

- SYSC System of Care and Long Term Plan - Continue to build out the Systems of care for DCYF to inform a feasible timeline and long-term plan for right-sizing the SYSC facility.
- Establish concurrent uses for SYSC - Identify concurrent uses for the SYSC facility to offset costs.
- HB517, enacted in June 2017, limited the types of youth that could enter SYSC and shortened the timeline youth spent at SYSC.
- SB592 enacted in June 2018 waives reimbursement for voluntary services under the child protection act, establishes a home visiting services initiative, expands certain childcare services, and establishes a committee to study family drug court models.
- Among the most prominent reasons for the decreased census at SYSC is the decline in using secure facilities to incarcerate juvenile offenders, stemming from the changes to sentencing and the implementation of sentence review enacted by New Hampshire in HB517.
- While admissions of committed juveniles at SYSC have decreased by 56 percent between FY17 and FY19, recidivism rates increased by 31.5 percent during the same period. In FY19, the recidivism rate for SYSC was 81.5 percent, indicating gaps in the current Systems of Care. Moreover, the average utilization of SYSC in FY20 was 12 percent, with an average daily population of 16.9 individuals. Lastly, recidivism rates have increased since the implementation of HB517.
- Closing SYSC would require NH to build/procure a new correctional facility.
- SYSC currently does not have any other in-state correctional facility placement options.

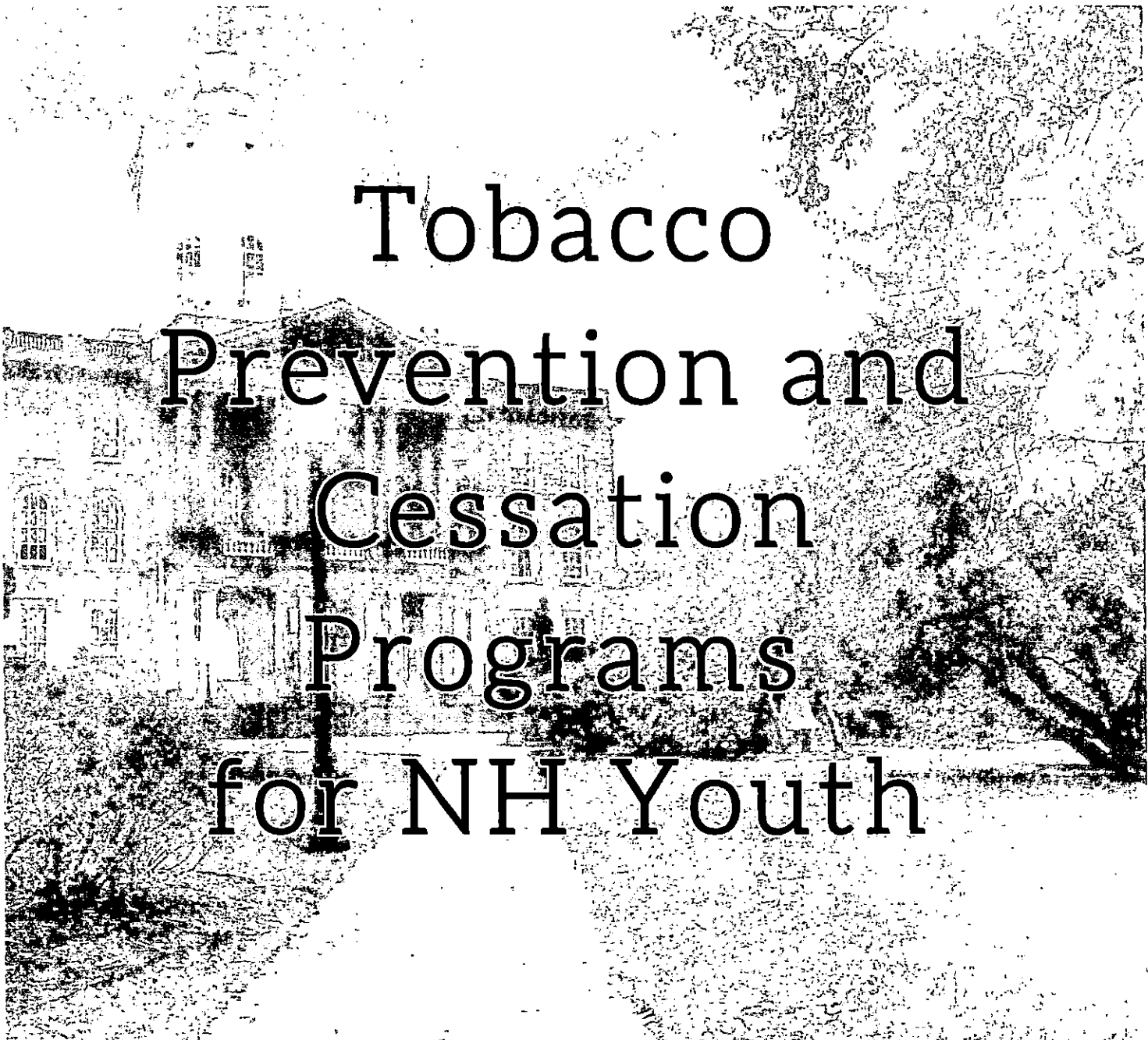
**Examples of current offenses of Juveniles now in secure detention at SYSC**

If these youth do not have a secure facility, the community at large will not be safe. Youth, in general, will not be safe.

- Murder X5
- Two counts of Second Degree Assault involving a firearm (shot someone twice)
- Attempted Murder involving a firearm (shot someone 6-7 times)
- Stabbings
- Armed Robbery involving a firearm
- Second Degree Assault X2
- Possession of a firearm
- Arson
  
- Felony Drug charges X2
  
- Second Degree Felony Assault
- Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault (AFSA) X2
- Felony Burglary
  
- Arson
  
- Sexual contact under age 13 X 2
- Robbery with a weapon (gun/knife) X 5
- Burglary with a weapon (gun/knife) X 3
- First-degree assault
- Second-degree assault X 6

Youth can plea bargain their charges. So, a felonious assault could be plea-bargained down to simple assault. The result is that their stay at SYSC will be so short that effective programming is longer than their required stay at SYSC. Very dangerous youth are then released into the general population with only probation officers to answer to.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUDGET



Tobacco  
Prevention and  
Cessation  
Programs  
for NH Youth

ADVOCATE STORIES

# NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUDGET

Please support a state budget that increases tobacco control funding by \$220,000 per year to provide prevention and cessation resources for youth facing addiction to nicotine caused largely by electronic cigarette/vape use. This modest funding will enable the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP) to launch an initiative to help keep granite state youth healthy.

- The New Hampshire Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP) engaged youth and helped develop and launch a multiplatform prevention and intervention campaign called Save Your Breath NH (<https://saveyourbreathnh.org>) in SFY 2020/21.
- In SFY 2022/23, TPCP will evaluate the knowledge gained through data analysis and plans to relaunch the campaign with NH adolescents taking the lead as peer influencers. When adolescents visit the website (<https://saveyourbreathnh.org>) there is a link to My Life My Quit™, a free and confidential adolescent helpline to quit smoking or vaping. This adolescent-focused quitline launched in October 2019.
- Ongoing evaluations of the impact of the campaign will be used to make improvements during phase two. TPCP plans to continue to work with adolescents to decrease youth initiation of electronic cigarettes. TPCP will also collaborate with local communities, School Administrative Units, and School Boards to encourage referrals to My Life My Quit™ when a minor violates tobacco use policies.

SAVES GRANITE STATE LIVES AND MONEY

## CARRIE MACDONALD

*Mother, PNP (Wolfeboro)*

I am the mother of three boys and a pediatric nurse with 20 years of experience. I serve as the Director of Student Health Services at Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro. In my ten years at Brewster Academy, I've seen firsthand the insidious nicotine effects on our campus. Younger students buy e-cigarettes from older students selling these devices at a premium. I've seen the number of students using nicotine increase and I work to support teens struggling to quit.

One of these students is my son. During his sophomore year, I started confiscating nicotine e-cigarette devices and pleaded with him to not vape. Not even 21 years old, he tells me now he wishes he had listened to me. He implores his younger brothers never to start.

We can not afford to put these realities on the back burner, especially with the rapid increase in e-cigarettes and vapes in high schools across NH.

## CORA LONG

*Stafford County PHN Substance Misuse Prevention Coordinator*

In New Hampshire, there has been a rapid increase in e-cigarette products among high school-aged youth. The 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that currently 33.8% of high school students report they have used e-cigarettes in the 30 days prior to taking the YRBS. Tobacco use takes a devastating toll on NH – killing more than 1,900 Granite Staters every year and costing \$730 million in health care costs. It is a problem that starts with our children because nearly 90% of current smokers begin when they are 18 or younger.

Yet, we know that with the right support in place, tobacco addiction is entirely preventable. Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs are a proven method of preventing kids from starting to smoke and helping adult smokers quit. Prevention programs in NH need to be invested in and supported.

I advocate for the Senate Finance Committee to restore funding for tobacco prevention and the My Life My Quit™ cessation program for Granite State youth. This funding is a drop in the bucket compared to the revenue raised through tobacco taxes. Investing in the health of our youth is the smart thing to do. We know this from experience.

**"INVESTING IN TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CESSATION PROGRAMS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. IT SAVES LIVES, AND IT SAVES MONEY, AND WE CAN'T AFFORD TO MOVE BACKWARD WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE HEALTH OF OUR YOUTH."**

-Carrie

We took a step in 2019 by raising the legal age of nicotine purchase to 21, but not funding tobacco prevention and cessation programs will put us three steps back.

90% of adult nicotine users tried their first tobacco product before the age of 18. We need to prioritize funding for programs that educate teens on the risk of nicotine use and support them to quit. Not investing in our teens now increases the risk that they will struggle with substance use disorder as they move into adulthood.

Investing in Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs for our youth is the right thing to do. It saves lives, and it saves money, and we can't afford to move backward when we're talking about the health of our youth.



## **ELIZABETH BROCHU**

*MEd, CPS, Youth Services Director,  
Substance Misuse Prevention  
Coordinator at Communities for Alcohol-  
and Drug-Free Youth (Plymouth)*

**"33.8% OF NH HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS REPORTED THEY  
HAVE USED E-CIGARETTES IN  
THE PAST 30 DAYS."**

~ 2019 Youth Behavioral Risk Survey

We have seen a significant increase in youth tobacco use across New Hampshire since 2017. According to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 33.8% of NH high school students reported using e-cigarettes in the past 30-days, higher than the national average of 32.7%. In the Central NH Region, 30-day youth use is significantly higher at 43.2%.

Additionally, youth are now combining tobacco/nicotine products with highly potent THC extracts. These chemicals work together to deliver a stronger psychoactive and sedative effect and increases impairment, toxicity, and addiction.

Youth remain the prime target audience for addiction. The young development brain is particularly vulnerable and susceptible to addictive substances like nicotine. Tobacco and vaping companies know this and are spending huge sums of money and use smart psychological influences to promote their deadly and addictive product to our youngest residents: their future clients.

These trends are not going away. It is critical we fund programs that keep kids from smoking, vaping, and using other addictive tobacco products. Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs are a proven method of preventing youth from starting to smoke and helping current smokers quit. Investing in this programming is the best course of action to increase the quality of life, strengthen positive outcomes, and prevent addiction in our most vulnerable population – our children.

## **KIMBERLY HALEY**

*MSW, MLADC, CPS, SAP Coordinator at Second Start (Concord)*

As the Student Assistance Program (SAP) Coordinator, I provide alcohol and other drug prevention services to schools in the Capital Region. One of the challenges facing SAP counselors is the alarming increase in nicotine use disorders amongst teens in New Hampshire. Young people are vaping nicotine in record numbers and this behavior puts these youth at increased risk to use traditional tobacco products and other substances.

To aid SAP counselors in their efforts to combat this problem, I urge lawmakers to support NH Health and Human Services' request to fund tobacco prevention and the "My Life My Quit" cessation program. Many of the youth who enter SAP programs during middle and high school years have been suffering unnecessarily for quite some time, many grappling with the impact of early childhood traumatic events. Although SAP counselors and their community partners come to the aid of these youth, they are often working against the clock to help these teens learn skills that will help them grow into thriving adults.

Lawmakers have an incredible responsibility to do right by the citizens of NH through the budget process. We must support the health and wellness of our youth so that they can thrive and live a life free from addiction.

## PATRICK KIEFER

*Stand Up Laconia  
(Laconia)*

As Granite Staters, It is our responsibility to protect our children and foster environments that enable them to grow up healthy and safe. As youth nicotine addiction increases more rapidly than ever, we must protect them.

Young brains are susceptible to addictive products and tobacco use in adolescence predisposes teens to addiction to more serious substances down the line.

Tobacco Prevention and the Cessation Programs, *Save Your Breath and My Life, My Quit™*, combines best practices for youth and has been adapted to decrease the use of e-cigarettes - which is the most popular form of consumption among teens.

## **THE DEVELOPING ADOLESCENT BRAIN IS SUSCEPTIBLE AND VULNERABLE TO ADDICTIVE PRODUCTS. TOBACCO USE IN ADOLESCENCE INCREASES THE RISK OF ADDICTION TO OTHER SUBSTANCES.**

- The Journal of Psychology

Evidence-based Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs work, and we owe our children better. If we fund tobacco prevention and cessation programs for our youth there is no doubt we're going to see the health of the next generation and the health of our state as a whole steadily improve.

With the state's revenue projection significantly better than when Governor Sununu presented this year's budget, he is encouraging the legislature to include these programs. This makes the decision to fund Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs very easy.

## SHEILA CONSIDINE-SWEENEY

*MSHS, Director of Integrated Care at Greater Nashua Mental Health*

Why should New Hampshire continue to fund Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs for youth? It is simply the smart thing to do: It saves lives and money. Tobacco use kills more than 1,900 Granite Staters every year and costs NH approximately \$730 million per year in preventable health care expenses. Electronic nicotine delivery systems, or e-cigarettes, are designed by companies to make nicotine more appealing to young people. Flavors such as bubblegum and mint and bright packaging, designs, and various shapes, are all ploys to entice youth and falsely make the public believe it is harmless.

E-liquid can contain more than 30 potentially harmful chemicals - with one of the chemicals being nicotine. Nicotine is the primary ingredient in both regular cigarettes and e-cigarettes and is highly addictive. Nicotine is also a toxic substance that raises blood pressure and spikes adrenaline, which increases heart rate and the likelihood of having a heart attack. E-cigarettes are just as harmful as other forms of tobacco and can cause cancer and chronic lung conditions. Nicotine negatively impacts both physical and mental health. Many turn to vaping to help with relaxation, however, nicotine can make people feel more depressed, anxious, stressed, and impact impulse control, concentration, and mood.

It is critical that NH funds Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs to prevent young people from initial use and assisting with quit attempts. Investing in proven Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs will help save lives.

## ALBEE BUDNITZ

*MD, FACP, FCCP, Chair of  
Tobacco Free New Hampshire*

Tobacco-related diseases and disorders are NH's, America's, and the world's #1 public health problem. In 2020, tobacco-related disease killed 1,900 Granite Staters. Further, data over the last 30 years shows tobacco use disorder to be the lead-in to addictive drug use that contributes to other deadly substance use disorders (SUDs).

Limiting youth exposure to addictive substances until after age 21, could reduce SUDs by 95%, and limiting exposure to addictive substances until after age 26, could reduce SUDs by 99%. This is because the brain is developing until approximately age 25 and is particularly susceptible to addictive substances. With even minimal exposure to addictive substances, the brain can become changed forever.

## BREATHE NEW HAMPSHIRE

In 2017, Breathe New Hampshire heard from Assistant Principals, Guidance Counselors, nurses, and parents concerned about the dramatic increase of teens caught vaping at school. As we traveled to schools throughout the state that year, we learned that students caught vaping faced varying punishments - suspension, fines, or court - none of which deterred teens from vaping. Over time, the conversations with schools shifted to how to help students with the recognition that many of the teens vaping were already addicted to nicotine and required support and education rather than punishment.

The Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs offer two effective and proven programs that address prevention and treatment for youth and teens. The Save Your Breath social marketing campaign raises awareness about the harms of vaping and combats Big Tobacco's marketing that directly targets youth. For teens that want to quit tobacco and vaping, My Life My Quit™, is a free treatment program to help them quit from their phones. This program connects teens with a quit coach and also provides healthy tools to deal with stress.

We encourage lawmakers to support Tobacco Prevention and Cessation programs in the state budget to prevent this young generation from lifelong addiction and tobacco-related death and diseases.

## **TOBACCO USE KILLS MORE THAN 1,900 GRANITE STATERS EVERY YEAR AND COSTS NH ABOUT \$730 MILLION PER YEAR IN PREVENTABLE HEALTH CARE EXPENSES.**

- Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

We know how to prevent youth from using addictive substances and have since the 1990's, when the National Cancer Institute developed a comprehensive approach, including increasing the legal age to 21+, increasing the price, as well as prevention and cessation programs, among others.

NH's Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program has been woefully underfunded - over the last years funding has been between zero and \$400,000, far less than the CDC-recommended \$16 million per year. Meanwhile, NH's tobacco-related diseases cost health care costs are approximately \$730 million per year in health care expenses while the NH tobacco tax and revenue generate \$245.3 million annually.

## MICHAEL COHEN

*Father, former Executive Director of NAMI NH, and former Board Chair of New Futures (Amherst)*

I have seen first-hand the impact of nicotine addiction and the life-restoring benefits of quitting smoking. My father was a cigar smoker and died at 57 after complications from a heart attack. One of the contributing factors to his early death, the cardiologist said, was his smoking. Tobacco is a killer; killing more than 1,900 NH residents a year and costing the state an estimated \$730 million a year in preventable healthcare costs. These costs contribute to rising healthcare premiums for everyone, whether a smoker or not.

Research shows that 90% of current smokers began at age 18 or younger. One in three Granite State youth are using e-cigarettes. To address this serious public health concern, \$220,000 per year must be added to the budget to support proven Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs for youth, like My Life, My Quit, which uses technology to help youth communicate with trained professionals. Investing in this program will also fill a gap in cessation services that have been traditionally focused on adults. Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs are a proven method of preventing kids from starting to smoke and helping them quit.

Isn't a small additional investment of \$220,000 from the \$245.3 million tobacco taxes and settlement payments to support this program to save the lives of our youth worth it?

## KIMBLY WADE

*NH Director of Prevention, Strategies Partnership for Public Health (Gilford)*

Nicotine use has a devastating impact on the financial and physical wellbeing of Granite Staters. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the nation. It is vital we educate and encourage people to be smoke-free from a young age. Prevention efforts and cessation outreach are crucial to ensuring youth and young adults never start using tobacco products and that those using have access to proven programs to end their dependence on nicotine completely.

According to the CDC, evidence-based, statewide tobacco control programs have been shown to reduce the number of people who smoke, as well as tobacco-related diseases and deaths. For every \$1 spent on tobacco prevention, states can reduce tobacco-related health care expenditures and hospitalizations by up to \$55 and lost productivity due to premature death every year.

**"FOR EVERY \$1 SPENT ON TOBACCO PREVENTION, STATES CAN REDUCE TOBACCO-RELATED HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURES AND HOSPITALIZATIONS BY UP TO \$55 AND LOST PRODUCTIVITY DUE TO PREMATURE DEATH EVERY YEAR."**

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Among youth, there has been an increase in the popularity of e-cigarettes containing nicotine and other cancer-causing chemicals. By including funding for Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs within the NH state budget, legislators will be showing Granite Staters that they wish to secure a future that is smoke-free and without dependency on tobacco.

## **PETER SEBERT**

*Parent, Director of a  
Community Coalition to reduce  
youth substance use, and  
former YMCA Director,  
Therapist and Coach  
(Peterborough)*

I have had a long career advocating for youth. One thing that I have learned through the years of experience, is that investment in the well-being of our youngest citizens is critical for their future and the future of our state.

Unfortunately, I have seen an alarming increase in the number of youth struggling with a mental health issue and a decrease in affordable positive outlets. Every year, the number of youth diagnosed with anxiety and depression grows, and does their dependence on substances like tobacco and marijuana. As I am sure you are aware, struggling youth who turn to substance use often start down a road that leads to legal issues, and a disconnect from school, family, and community.

**"NOW, MORE THAN EVER IS  
TIME TO INVEST IN THE  
HEALTH OF OUR YOUTH."**

- Peter

Our schools and families are not equipped to help these young people out and once isolated, they usually withdraw further from the healthier options available to them. Luckily, there is hope for these youth with the help of effective programs with properly trained professionals focused on their well-being.

Now, more than ever is time to invest in the health of our youth. We need the highest quality childcare services, parent education programs, prevention services, and mental health care services to meet this challenge. I advocate to restore funding for Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs. Investing in tobacco prevention and cessation is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do for Granite State youth.

**PLEASE SUPPORT A STATE BUDGET THAT  
INCREASES TOBACCO CONTROL FUNDING BY  
\$220,000 PER YEAR TO PROVIDE  
PREVENTION AND CESSATION RESOURCES  
FOR YOUTH FACING ADDICTION TO  
NICOTINE CAUSED LARGELY BY ELECTRONIC  
CIGARETTE/VAPE USE.**

**THANK YOU**

# CARROLL COUNTY COALITION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH



An Initiative of Granite United Way

1230 Route 16, Ossipee, New Hampshire 03864  
603.301.1252 info@c3ph.org www.c3ph.org

To: Senate Finance Committee

I am writing to advocate for the Senate Finance Committee to restore funding for tobacco prevention and the My Life My Quit™ cessation program for Granite State youth. This funding is minimal in comparison to the revenue raised through tobacco taxes. Investing in the health of our youth is not only the smart thing to do, but also the right thing to do! It saves lives and money. We know this from experience.

In New Hampshire, there has been a rapid increase in e-cigarette products use among high school-aged youth. The 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that currently, 33.8% of high school students report they have used e-cigarettes in the 30 days prior to taking the YRBS. In Carroll County, the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey showed that 57.1% of high school students reported they have used e-cigarettes, with 11.2% using e-cigarettes daily within the previous 30 days before the YRBS survey. Tobacco use takes a devastating toll on NH – killing more than 1,900 Granite Staters every year and costing \$730 million in health care costs. It is a problem that starts with our children because nearly 90 percent of current smokers begin when they are 18 or younger.

We know that with the right support in place, tobacco addiction is entirely preventable. Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs are a proven method of preventing kids from starting to smoke and helping adult smokers quit. Prevention programs in NH need to continue to be invested in and supported. Defunding Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs while youth e-cigarette use continues to rise in our state seems to be a step backward, rather than forwards and sends the wrong message to our NH residents.

Submitted by:

Kim Perkinson, Substance Misuse Prevention Coordinator  
Carroll County Coalition for Public Health

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Shana Potvin <shanapotvin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 1:37 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB544

Dear Senators,

I am writing to ask you to remove the language of HB544 from the New Hampshire budget when it comes up for your consideration. Please reject government censorship and overreach.

This divisive legislation would:

Shut down important conversations about racism sexism and implicit bias,  
violate 1st Amendment rights and invite costly lawsuits.

As members of the Senate Finance committee you're tasked first and foremost with addressing the budgetary needs of New Hampshire.

Please do not allow this non-germane effort to distract you from fulfilling your legislative and fiduciary responsibilities.

Thank you,  
Shana Potvin  
233 Joppa Hill Rd  
Bedford NH 03110

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Gilmour, Margaret C. <pgilmour@preti.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 1:37 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Budget and services for Developmental Disabilities

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I have served on the Board of Directors of Gateways Community Services, the Area Agency serving Nashua and the surrounding communities, for several years. I have served with many community organizations, and I can tell you that Gateways is one of the best run, most efficient agencies in the state. With the dollars they receive, they provide service to those with Developmental Disabilities in a manner that is skilled, compassionate, family centered and affords each client the dignity and respect they deserve.

I request that you fully fund DD services. This past year has seen significant challenges of course. But with good management, the Gateways staff has performed yeoman's work to keep families supported and clients safe and productive. As you make difficult budget choices, please know that funding these services is right for New Hampshire.

Thank you,

Peggy Gilmour

PS Let me put in a plug for dental care for those on Medicaid. It has always struck me as ludicrous to pay for emergency dental care in the most expensive venue and not for routine and preventative care! It is (past) time for an Adult Medicaid Dental Benefit.

**Peggy C. Gilmour**  
Senior Policy Advisor  
603.410.1599 Tel  
603.315.9748 Cell  
pgilmour@preti.com  
[Bio](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [pretistrategies.com](#)

**PretiSTRATEGIES**  
P.O. Box 1318  
Concord, NH 03302-1318

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Joy Barrett <jbarrett@cac-nh.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 1:52 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Child Advocacy Centers in NH  
**Attachments:** GSCA - NH Network of CACs - Follow up to 4-23 hearing.pdf

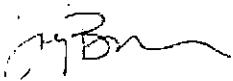
Good afternoon Chairman Senator Daniels and Senate Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your continued support of our work with child victims of abuse and neglect in NH. We were encouraged by Attorney General Formella's comments made during the April 23<sup>rd</sup> hearing that he is not opposed to restoring **Child Advocacy Center (CAC)** funding in the FY22/23 budget. I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify that the network of CACs in NH are not funded by the New Hampshire Internet Crimes Against Children (NH ICAC) or the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

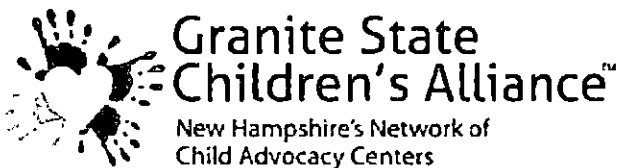
Please see the letter attached that includes pertinent information about the network of NH CACs, our role in child protection and how we are funded.

**Please support the GSCA and NH CACs and restore our funding through the NH Department of Justice Budget.**

Thank you for your continued support.



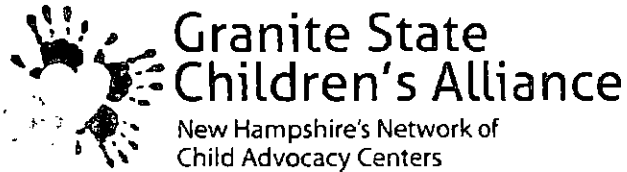
**Joy Barrett**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Granite State Children's Alliance  
72 South River Road, Suite 202  
Bedford, New Hampshire 03110  
Direct Line: 603.864.0215



Learn more about NH's Network of Child Advocacy Centers at: [www.cac-nh.org](http://www.cac-nh.org)

**KNOW<sup>®</sup>  
& TELL**

Learn more about KNOW & TELL at: [www.KNOWandTELL.org](http://www.KNOWandTELL.org)



May 3, 2021

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your continued support of our work with child victims of abuse and neglect in NH. Although we are encouraged by Attorney General Formella's position during the Senate Finance Committee hearing on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> that the General is not opposed to restoring Child Advocacy Center (CAC) funding in the FY22/23 budget, I wanted to clarify that the network of CACs in NH are not funded by the New Hampshire Internet Crimes Against Children (NH ICAC) or the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

As part of New Hampshire's multidisciplinary response to child abuse and neglect we have strong partnerships with many agencies and professionals from around NH to do this important work. The complex dynamics within child protection services requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach to investigation and care. CACs are a strong partner in the child protection safety net and provide an essential service to child abuse victims and their caregivers in communities across NH.

CACs respond to, and address, the needs of children and caregivers who require our services through referrals from local law enforcement, the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and the Attorney General's Office. CACs are responsible for the coordination of the multidisciplinary team (MDT), providing the forensic interview and coordinating referrals to ensure that children in these cases receive timely access to specialized medical attention and appropriate wrap-around services such as evidence based mental health assessment and treatment. CACs provide this service to children, families and our multidisciplinary team partners at no charge.

The previous NHDOJ budget allotted \$100,000 in funding for NH's Network of CACs. This funding allowed for \$9,000 for each of the eleven enters in the state and \$1,000 for the Granite State Children's Alliance, the chapter organization providing technical assistance and support of NH's CACs. The reality is that NH CACs need an even greater investment than what was previously allotted to be sustainable and provide continued high quality services for child victims to heal, survive and thrive.

Annually approximately 2,000 children are referred for services to CACs across NH from our

referral partners (local law enforcement, the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and the Attorney General's Office). The National Children's Alliance places the average cost for CAC forensic interview and follow up services at \$1,600 per child, indicating that NH CACs provide \$3.2 million dollars worth of service to children and the multi-disciplinary team of investigators. To not fund CACS through the NH State budget would make CACs an unfunded mandate as using our CAC/MDT model for investigations of child abuse and neglect is a best practice standard, both in NH and Nationally.

Additionally, during these unprecedented times, while CACs are faced with the challenges of a surging demand for our services, we are also experiencing a dramatic reduction in revenue expected from VOCA (Victim of Crime Act Fund) and our inability to hold fundraising events and activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please support the GSCA and NH CACs and restore our funding through the NH Department of Justice Budget. While we are presented with many financial hardships, we are hopeful that NH's investment in our work continues to support our mission.

Sincerely,



**Joy Barrett**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Granite State Children's Alliance  
72 South River Road, Suite 202  
Bedford, New Hampshire 03110

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Arnie Alpert <aalpertnh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 2:25 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** comment on HB 2

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The language from the now-tabled HB 544 that is now attached to HB 2 as Section 330 (page 161, line 11) is damaging, unneeded and has no place in the state budget.

The notion that discussion of legal advantages that American history has conferred upon certain groups should be considered illegal "stereotyping" is an affront to truth and history. If our schools and other publicly supported entities cannot consider the facts associated with generations of discrimination based on race and sex, then we are saying students and taxpayers deserve to be deceived.

Section 330 of HB 2 is itself divisive and should be stricken from the final bill. I hope the Finance Committee will make swift work of deleting this section rather than try to "fix" it with an amendment.

Thanks for your attention.

Arnie Alpert,  
1 Mudgett Hill Rd, Canterbury NH 03224

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Christina Warriner <cwarriner@new-futures.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 2:31 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Larry Kane  
**Subject:** [CONSTITUENT] Senate Budget Testimony on behalf of Dr. Larry Kane

Good afternoon,

It was brought to my attention that Dr. Kane may have run into some trouble when submitting written testimony for tomorrow's Senate Budget hearings. I wanted to submit his testimony here on his behalf if that was the case. Thank you!

-

As a retired physician who serves on the Board of Southeastern New Hampshire Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (SENHS) in Dover, I have witnessed the overwhelming impact that the substance use disorder crisis has had on Granite Staters. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented SENHS with serious economic and patient accessibility challenges, but we remain dedicated to providing treatment to as many clients as possible.

Despite our best efforts, there continues to be unmet need in our community that SENHS does not have the resources to treat. When our neighbors do not get the addiction and mental health care they need, our entire community suffers. It is time for New Hampshire to invest in a strong health care workforce that supports our providers, boosts access to treatment, and increases quality of care.

Recruiting and retaining health care professionals specialized in addiction medicine and having fairer reimbursement rates for treatment would make a world of difference for SENHS staff and patients. **I urge lawmakers to support the Student Loan Repayment Program for health care professionals working in underserved areas, and adequate Medicaid and NHB DAS reimbursement rates.**

Thank you,  
Lawrence R Kane MD, SENHS Board VP

Christina Warriner (she/her)  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
[New Futures](#)  
100 N. Main Street, Suite 400 | Concord, NH  
603-731-6209 (cell)  
[NewFuturesNH](#) | [@NewFuturesNH](#)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Howard Moffett <howard.m.moffett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 2:38 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Letter to Senate Finance Committee on HB 2

Dear Senators:

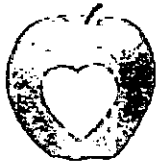
I'd like to register my opposition to two sections of HB 2 that I believe have no place in the budget or in the trailer bill.

The first is HB 544, which has nothing to do with the budget and will simply embarrass New Hampshire as a clownish attempt to have the state dictate how we teach history, in violation of the First Amendment to the US Constitution, as made applicable to the State under the Fourteenth Amendment. If you include this provision in the trailer bill, you will make New Hampshire a laughingstock among state governments. If HB 2 passes with HB 544 in it, look for lawsuits from many directions. We do better as a society if we let the marketplace of ideas weed out those that are without merit, rather than having the state attempt to decide which ideas have merit and which don't. Please note that distinguishing between state agencies and public school districts on the one hand and "contractors" on the other doesn't help--it only makes the state look more foolish.

The second objectionable section in HB 2 is the one concerning "education freedom savings accounts," sometimes called the voucher bill. Our state constitution doesn't allow public education tax funds to be used to pay for religious education, and as a matter of public policy I am outraged that public tax dollars would be siphoned away from public schools to support private schools of any stripe. NH is already last among states in its support for public education. Let's not dig that hole any deeper:

Thank you for your consideration.

Howard Moffett  
Canterbury, NH



HOPKINTON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
School Administrative Unit 66

204 MAPLE STREET · CONTOOCOOK, NH 03229  
TEL: (603) 746-5186 FAX: (603) 746-5714

*Above All, Care*

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May 6, 2021

Hon. Gary Daniels  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: Propagation of Divisive Concepts Prohibited Language in HB 2**

Dear Senator Daniels and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on language contained within the House passed state budget. The Hopkinton School Board met on May 6<sup>th</sup> and voted unanimously to register its strong opposition to the embedding of the language in what was HB 544 into the state budget currently being discussed in the Senate Finance Committee.

The Hopkinton School Board agrees with Governor Sununu's stated position that he would likely veto such legislation, as he believes that it infringes on the free speech of NH citizens. Further, because the HB 544 language is a close model of President Donald Trump's Executive Order 13590, which was struck down in the courts for constitutional violations; and because it is already opposed by numerous prominent NH businesses, organizations, and civil rights groups; it can be expected that such language in the NH budget would be subject to numerous court challenges, with the NH taxpayers footing the legal bills.

Pedagogically, the passage of the current HB 544 language would restrict local control of education and be a hindrance to the proper education of our students.

The mission of the Hopkinton School District is "Above All Care." Earlier this school year, the Hopkinton School Board passed an updated anti-discrimination policy and plan. We are committed to preventing discrimination by working with students, staff, and families to create an educational and working environment supportive of our diverse school community; by reflecting upon and updating our pedagogy, curriculum, and traditions; and by proactively intervening, responding to and speaking out against discrimination in our community.

Like many school districts and businesses across the state, we are very concerned that our efforts to advance the important work of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice would be undermined by the limitations imposed by the inclusion of this language in the state budget.

Steven M. Chamberlin  
*Superintendent*  
[schamberlin@hopkintonschools.org](mailto:schamberlin@hopkintonschools.org)

Michelle R. Clark  
*Business Administrator*  
[mclark@hopkintonschools.org](mailto:mclark@hopkintonschools.org)

Mandie Hibbard  
*Director of Student Services*  
[mhibbard@hopkintonschools.org](mailto:mhibbard@hopkintonschools.org)

Matthew P. Stone  
*Director of Technology*  
[mstone@hopkintonschools.org](mailto:mstone@hopkintonschools.org)

If passed, the language contained in the House budget proposal would fundamentally take away decision making authority on important educational matters and personnel management from the Hopkinton School Board. New Hampshire has traditionally prided itself on a tradition of allowing school districts the latitude to make decisions and set priorities deemed in the best interest of their staff, students and communities. As local elected officials, we take this responsibility seriously – actively engaging with students, families and the greater Hopkinton community to deliver an education that reflects the values of our community. The language contained in the House passed budget seeks to undermine this tradition and make unlawful certain conversations about race, gender and privilege that some members of the Legislature find offensive. We strongly believe that this is the wrong approach.

Aside from political ideology, we fail to understand why the Legislature would undertake this unprecedented action to censor local school districts. It is striking that the House, rather than focus on providing students and communities with the resources needed to provide an adequate education, or address the educational funding gap associated with COVID-19, has instead used the budget process to interfere with local control of education and free speech. We hope that the Senate Finance Committee will use its budget process to focus on providing resources to support student learning and provide local property tax relief, rather than fighting a fictitious culture war – our students and communities deserve better.

Our sincere hope is that rather than use the state budget process to censor certain discussions within our schools, we can instead support the efforts of local decision makers to provide students with the critical thinking skills they need to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

On behalf of the Hopkinton School Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim O'Brien', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim O'Brien, Chair  
jobrien@sau66.org



HB544 “Prohibition on the Propagation of Divisive Concepts” was recently laid on the table in the House after receiving a narrow Ought to Pass victory in committee. The New Hampshire Psychological Association had encouraged the committee to find the bill inexpedient to legislate. Since then, the bill’s language has been added to HB2, which then was passed by the full house. I am requesting that the NH State Senate reject this amendment to HB2 and reject the language of HB544.

The supporters of HB544 have asserted that Critical Race Theory (CRT) is being incorporated into teaching and training in New Hampshire and that it should be prohibited. There are several problems with this argument. The most fundamental is that the definitions put forth in HB544 and passed as part of HB2 fatally misrepresent CRT and similar theories (e.g., critical feminist theory). As a psychologist, I firmly believe that individuals advocating in good faith can disagree about solutions to racism and sexism. We do not believe that the language of HB544 represents a good faith argument. Proponents of CRT and similar theories do not adhere to the belief that one race or sex is superior to another, as is claimed in HB544. It is also not held that one’s race makes them inherently racist or otherwise determines their moral character. If there is to be an honest debate about the merits of CRT and whether it should be included in training, these fundamental falsehoods have no place in this debate.

The larger questions of HB544 are how should we think about racism/sexism/bigotry and what, if anything, do we need to do different. The sponsors of this bill have suggested that previous civil rights activism and legislation have sufficiently resolved racism and sexism, such that further discussion would only serve to propagate these ills. The civil rights movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century did indeed make great strides in installing protections against overt racial bias and characterizing intentional racism as disqualifying for positions of leadership. It is a credit to those movements that the United States went from overtly white supremacist leaders (e.g., Woodrow Wilson) to landmark passage of civil rights bills within 50 years. Nevertheless, we must reject the assertion that racism and sexism in the United States and in New Hampshire are problems already solved. We challenge the idea that bigotry is always intentional and obvious. Many ‘benign’ laws, institutions, and societal structures result in dramatically different outcomes for different racial and gender groups. This is the fundamental idea behind concepts like White Privilege and Male Privilege: that individuals with privilege can live and exist in a society where their needs were the defaults considered and planned for. The goals of the next wave of civil rights movements should be to eliminate the racial and sexual disparities in outcomes caused by the biases that exist in these laws, institutions, and societal structures.

Accomplishing these changes is a monumental task, and the first step will always be frank and honest discussion; the kind of discussion prohibited by the language in HB544. We recognize that not everyone agrees whether these changes are warranted. Psychologists have a long history of wrestling with questions of outcome disparities related to race and sex. The vast majority of the community of psychologists has rejected the hypothesis that outcome disparities are the result of biological differences in intellectual abilities or personality traits. Where these disparities exist, we must then identify where and when systemic biases are a root cause. The

discussions and investigations prohibited by HB544 serve to identify bias that is real and powerful. These biases survive when we rationalize, minimize, and otherwise hide them. They must be rooted out like pernicious tumors, to prevent them from continuing to weaken our society. And to be frank, if you know a psychologist (and you probably do), it should come as no surprise that we would not agree to prohibitions on talking through problems.

There already has been substantial debate about the merits and drawbacks of a prohibition on CRT and similar trainings. I agree with the position that the language of HB544 would act as a government limit on speech that would not survive a court challenge. We agree that this bill would likely cost taxpayer money to respond to such a court challenge and that the funds for this expense could be better served elsewhere. However, I believe that the flaws with this prohibition are more fundamental. The prohibition of discussion of racial and gender privileges does not eliminate these privileges which do exist; it does not protect anyone from discomfort or anguish. It serves only to obstruct the path to a more fair, just, and equal society.

Psychologists recognize that we have a duty recognize the importance of advocating for justice and for respect for people's rights and dignity. We recognize that social institutions in the United States and in New Hampshire have a historical record of treating individuals differently based on race, gender, and other personal characteristics. As a society, we have progressed toward a more equal and free society. However, we recognize that this effort is not complete and we must always continue to work toward our guiding principles. Therefore, I strongly urge you, each member of the New Hampshire Senate, and Governor Sununu to reject this amendment to HB2.

James Bomersbach, Ph.D.

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** NHLA EDI <edi@nhlibrarians.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 2:39 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** New Hampshire Library Association Opposes HB 544

Good Afternoon,

House Bill 544 (HB544), the text of which is now in the proposed state budget operates in direct violation of the First Amendment allowing institutions the freedom of expression to train their employees in the manner the organization judges best. If passed, HB544 would then violate the constitutional rights of all institutions that receive state funding, but particularly educational ones, like libraries, in order to maintain the current hegemony. In addition professional standards addressed in the American Library Association's Code of Ethics are in direct conflict with this bill.

Historically, neutrality favors the dominant power structure that has actively harmed marginalized populations. Such a dynamic places the onus on oppressed peoples to prove the existence of injustice in the face of a prevailing culture that would elide and invalidate their lived experience. Under the guise of “neutrality”, this bill would perpetuate a culture of silence and inaction. For all its doublespeak concerning equality, the effect of HB544 would be to codify and enforce this toxic blindness to unequal treatment.

Educators doing this work know that one of the biggest barriers is the fragility of those who have historically benefited from inequity. Anti-racist work is hard and often uncomfortable, but libraries occupy trusted spaces in their communities where this work can take place. Given the course and direction of the history of New Hampshire and the United States, we know that such suppressive efforts will dampen the march of social change. In alignment with the core commitments of the library profession to intellectual freedom, equality, inclusivity, accessibility, and the ongoing pursuit of social justice, the New Hampshire Library Association Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee and Intellectual Freedom Committee stand in strong opposition to HB544, and any other bill containing this text.

Kind Regards

Leigh Ann Hamel

On behalf of the NHLA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee, and Intellectual Freedom Committee

To the members of the New Hampshire Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing as a concerned citizen, an educator, and a professional historian to oppose section 10-C of HB 2, on “Propagation of Divisive Concepts.” I am a professor of history at Keene State College. I am also a Keene State alumnus, as well as an alumnus of the University System Board of Trustees, on which I served as a student trustee in 1995-1996.

My area of expertise, in which I have published widely, is German history. As a German historian, I am especially appalled by this legislation – legislation that would be more at home in the totalitarian regimes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (or Russia, North Korea, China, or Turkey today) than in the United States of America. I cannot imagine similar legislation ever seeing the light of day in Germany today. (I highly recommend the recent work by the American philosopher Susan Neiman, *Learning from the Germans*, about how nations can grapple with the trauma of the past and collectively move forward toward a healthier society.)

The author(s) of this legislation demonstrate a complete lack of understanding of both systemic racism and how history is studied and taught. Educators never teach students that any individual or group of people are “inherently” racist – that’s not *systemic* racism. Even individuals who are themselves not racist must too often work with *systems* that were constructed by historical forces beyond their personal control. What percentage of police officers are racist? Who knows, but it is probably at least on par with the population as a whole. However, ALL police officers work within a system that was constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in both the South and the North to maintain and perpetuate the dominance of those in power – i.e. whites. Slave patrols in the South and growing police forces of white immigrants in northern cities were all expressly built for the purpose of policing a particular segment of the population – i.e. Blacks. As a consequence, we have a system that polices Blacks differently than whites – resulting in a disproportionately high number of people of color who are pulled over for “routine” traffic stops; stopped and frisked without evidence of wrongdoing; arrested, charged, and convicted; given longer sentences; and subjected to lethal violence by the state. This is not because ALL white people are racist, or because ALL police officers are racist, and there are NO educators who teach that in the classroom. It is because our system of policing and our legal system were constructed that way.

How is history to be taught? In 2011, Republicans in the U.S. House took turns reading the Constitution out loud to make a point about the founding principles of the nation. When doing so, they left out the passage in Article I, Section II that counted slaves as three-fifths of a person for the purposes of the census and the determination of representation. Is this the kind of history the author(s) of this legislation would have us teach? History that is purged and whitewashed – accuracy be damned?

To acknowledge that this country was founded in an act of theft of land from Native American peoples, and that it grew wealthy on slave labor is not to condemn the United States as irredeemably racist and evil. Quite the opposite. The greatness of this nation is that it was

founded on ideals – that all humans are created equal and that we are collectively involved in the creation of a more perfect union. The drafters of the Constitution did not claim that America was perfect in 1789; they committed themselves (and us) to the progressive endeavor of perpetually working toward a “more perfect union” (here I recommend Jill Lepore’s *This America: The Case for the Nation*). And that is what we have done for almost 250 years – we have made progress toward that more perfect union by recognizing the inequities of our past and present and by recommitting ourselves to the ideal of equality. But redemption is only possible when we have first recognized our iniquities, sought forgiveness, and resolved to be and do better. This legislation aims to do precisely the opposite.

I would ask you to sincerely reflect on your own power and privilege. On January 6, 147 lawmakers in Washington – each and every one white – voted to throw out tens of millions of votes by people of color in an attempt to change the outcome of the presidential election. Now, we have a handful of white lawmakers proposing legislation that would make it impermissible to teach about the systemic inequalities that disproportionately affect people of color. Recently, I was discussing this legislation with students (they actually asked me about it in class because they had heard about it, but couldn’t believe it). One student perceptively pointed out the historical precedent for legislation like this in the “gag rule” adopted by Congress in 1836. (If you don’t know what that was, you should learn about it, unless that fact of American history is too “divisive.”) They grasped the significance, and I hope you can, too.

Finally, I ask you when it became patriotic or conservative to use the power of the state to dictate curriculum? Is this the system in which we want to live – one in which every time a different political party takes the reigns of power, it dictates a new curriculum to suit its ideology? I know that many of you see “liberal elite” scholars and educators as the problem, but in a free society who should be determining curriculum – scholars and educators or politicians? Citizens or the state?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nicholas Germana  
206 Baker St.  
Keene

An Open Letter Opposing House Bill 544 Language in the Budget to:

State Representatives

State Senators

Governor Christopher T. Sununu

New Hampshire businesses have been challenged on many levels throughout the pandemic, but the resiliency, loyalty and creativity of our employees have been the critical factors in our ability to survive. We believe that if enacted the language of HB 544, An Act Relative to the propagation of divisive concepts, will have a chilling impact on our workplaces and on the business climate in New Hampshire, and we raise our voices in opposition to it. Our experience has shown that:

- Diverse and inclusive work environments support innovative thinking and problem solving. We value the opportunities that arise from different perspectives and open-minded inquiry. The success of New Hampshire businesses depends on the ability to attract diverse generational, gender and racial employee groups at all levels within our organizations and to do so, we must constantly work to create an environment that makes all our employees feel empowered in their roles.
- Our businesses, large and small, have seen that inclusive work environments dramatically increase employee retention, which directly impacts our financial bottom line. And yet inclusive work environments must be fostered, including enabling open and honest discussions about racism and sexism, implicit bias and how we can eliminate structural racism.
- As a geographically small state, we constantly compete with neighboring states to attract the best talent. Creating the image that New Hampshire is regressive and intolerant puts us at an economic disadvantage.
- We value each of our employees and their diverse backgrounds. We strive to foster an environment that lifts the human spirit to achieve their fullest potential within our workplaces and our communities. This bill would diminish our ability to do so.

House Bill 544 is antithetical to all of these principles. The now-rescinded federal executive order that this bill seems to emulate was rightly opposed by business groups including the US Chamber of Commerce. HB 544 would not only harm the ability of New Hampshire businesses to be competitive, it would severely harm the state's image as business-friendly, since it stifles the ability of organizations who do business with the state to foster diverse workforces as they see fit.

It is important to explore, inquire and learn from our past as we move to the future. We cannot shy away from Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training. It is critical to our understanding and ability to build strong workplaces.

We believe that New Hampshire is poised to thrive as we emerge from the pandemic. HB 544 works to stymie our businesses' brand image, our innovative spirit and economic opportunities. We believe that HB 544 disadvantages our businesses and tarnishes New Hampshire's future.

We strongly urge you, our elected representatives, to protect the state, its people, and its businesses from this dangerous and damaging legislation.

**Bolded text indicates >100 employees**

36creative

603 Forward

900 Degrees Neapolitan Pizzeria

ABLE NH

**Adimab, LLC**

AGG Consulting

AHEAD, Inc.

Aileen Dugan State Farm Insurance

Alexandra Chan Photography

Allgood Strategies LLC

Altus Engineering, Inc.

**Amoskeag Health**

Amy Conley Music

Anastasia's Table, LLC

**Appalachian Mountain Club**

Arts In Reach

Ascentria Care Alliance

Atlantic Media Productions

Backyard Concept, LLC

Ballentine Partners, LLC

Beechleaf Design

**Bernstein Shur**

Bill Maddocks Consulting LLC

Blasty Bough Brewing Company

**Boloco**

Bona Fide Green Goods

Brewbakers

Brown & Company Design

Bruss Project Management

Business Decision Services

**C&S Wholesale Grocers, Inc.**

Caldwell Law

Canterbury Center Bed and Breakfast LLC

Canterbury Shaker Village

Capital Area Public Health Network

Carroll County Coalition for Public Health

Cayena Capital Management, LLC

Center for Women & Enterprise

Centrus Digital

Chapel+Main Brewpub

Cheshire County TV

Cheshire Garden

Cheshire Housing Trust

**Cheshire Medical Center**

City Year New Hampshire

Clean Water Action

**Colby-Sawyer College**

Conservation Law Foundation

Contract Support Group

Convergent Technical Solutions LLC

Cornerstone Financial Planning

Cornerstone Tree Care

CUP OF JOE

Darkfin Studios

**Dartmouth College**

**Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health**

David Baum Associates

Davis Pinney Inc.

Deep Blue Compass

Dimentech, LLC

Disability Rights Center - NH

DMS Remodelers

Dover Children's Home  
**Easterseals NH, VT, ME and Farnum**  
 EcoPhotography LLC  
 Educating for Good  
 Erin McCabe Wellness  
 Families in Transition  
 Fat Peach Farm, LLC  
**Fidelity Investments**  
 Flamingos Coffee Bar  
 Foothills Physical Therapy  
 Forfeng Designs  
 Frontyard Law, PLLC  
 Gale River Motel  
 Garland Mill  
 Gateways Community Services  
 Gibson's Bookstore  
 Global Citizens Circle  
 Global Round Table Leadership  
 GoodWork  
 Granite Backcountry Alliance  
 Granite Bay Connections  
 Granite Outdoor Alliance  
 Granite State Oral Surgery, PLLC  
 Granite United Way  
**Greater Seacoast Community Health**  
**Hanover Co-op Food Stores & Auto Service Centers**  
**Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation**  
 Heartwood Media  
 Henry Whipple House  
 Homefree, LLC  
 HR State Council of New Hampshire  
 Hvizda Realty Group  
 Hypersoft, Inc.  
**Hypertherm, Inc**  
 Image 4  
 ISR with Deb Rossetti  
 JLA Analytics, LLC  
 John Benford Photography LLC  
 JSA Design  
 Kate Johnson, Consultant  
 Kieschnick Consulting Services  
 Kilwins Portsmouth  
 Lakes Region Community Developers  
 League of Conservation Voters  
 Live Free Heating & Cooling  
 Love, Strength and Blessings  
 Lucky's Coffee Garage  
 Luminta, LLC  
 MacDowell  
 Mack Hill Riding Academy LLC  
 Mainstay Technologies  
 MAKE Architects  
**Mascoma Bank**  
 MasterPeace Massage  
 MAYO Designs  
**McLane, Middleton, PA**  
 McLean Communications  
**MegaFood**  
 Meredith Village Savings Bank  
 Meriden Congregational Church, UCC  
 Mindful Making and Design  
 MLK & Company, Nonprofit Consulting  
**Monadnock Food Co-op**  
 Monadnock Interfaith Project  
 Morneau Law  
 Mountain Shadow Adventures  
 NAMI New Hampshire  
 Natural Dharma Fellowship  
 naturesource communications  
 Neighborhood Access  
 NeighborWorks Southern New Hampshire  
 NEMO Equipment, Inc.  
 New Directions Collaborative  
 New Futures  
 New Hampshire Audubon  
 New Hampshire Business Committee for the Arts  
 New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits  
 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
 New Hampshire Community Loan Fund  
 New Hampshire Legal Assistance  
 New Hampshire Psychiatric Society  
 New Hampshire Public Health Association  
 New Hampshire Rivers Council  
 New Hampshire Trust Company  
 New Hampshire Youth Movement  
 New Sky Productions  
**NFI North**  
 NH Coalition to End Homelessness  
 NH Council on Developmental Disabilities  
 NH Mutual Bancorp



NH News Views & Blues  
NH Peace Action  
NH Women's Foundation  
**Nixon Peabody LLP**  
**Norris Cotton Cancer Center**  
North Country Climbing Center  
**Northeast Delta Dental**  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of NH  
Northroad Wood Signs  
Northwood Congregational Church  
Organizational Ignition  
Owl & Pen LLC  
**Oyster River Cooperative School District**  
Partnered Success College and Life Skills Coaching  
Penumbra  
PeopleSense Consulting  
Perform Well  
Performance Imaging, Inc.  
Persimmon Consulting, LLC  
**Pete and Gerry's Organics**  
**Petersen Engineering, Inc.**  
Placework  
Portsmouth Music and Arts Center (PMAC)  
**Prime Buchholz LLC**  
Prince Communications  
Proximity Lab  
Racial Unity Team  
Ragged Mountain Equipment Inc.  
Rain for the Sahel and Sahara  
Rakowsky Mediation  
Reaching Higher NH  
READ TO ME Literary Arts  
Reis & Kirkland PLLC  
Resilient Buildings Group, Inc  
**ReVision Energy**  
Revolution  
Richardson Media Group  
Rights & Democracy NH  
Rippleffect Consulting LLC  
Rocket Science Rowing  
Rooted by Stacey, LLC  
RSG  
Sarah K. Benning Studios  
Savings Bank of Walpole  
Shaheen & Gordon, P.A.

**Sheehan Phinney**  
Sheldon Pennoyer Architects  
Shire Digital  
Shtudy  
Slingshot Ent.  
Society for the Protection of NH Forests  
SOS Recovery Community Organization  
South Central Public Health Network  
**Southern New Hampshire University**  
St. Joseph Hospital  
Sterndale Strategic, LLC  
**Stonyfield Organic**  
Stratus Telecom, LLC  
**Sunrise Labs**  
Sunset Hill Educational Educational Institute  
Sustainable Futures Consulting  
Sweaty Turtle Entertainment  
Synchrony Advisors, LLC  
T. L. Hill Group  
The Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies  
The Collector's Eye  
**The Duprey Companies**  
The Edgewood Centre  
The Front Door Agency  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Nutrition Counseling Center  
**The University of New Hampshire**  
Throwback Brewery  
**Timberland**  
TOP Wellness inc.  
**Tufts Health Plan & Tufts Health Plan Foundation**  
United Way of Greater Nashua  
United Way of Greater Nashua  
Upper Merrimack Watershed Association  
**Velcro USA Inc.**  
W.S. Badger Company  
Watson International Consulting  
West Central Behavioral Health  
**Worthen Industries**  
Yahso Jamaican Grille  
Yankee Publishing  
YWCA New Hampshire

Respectfully submitted by New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility on May 3, 2021.  
Signatories reflect only those companies that signed on before May 3, 2021 at 9:00 am. A current list  
can be found at [www.nhbsr.org/HB544](http://www.nhbsr.org/HB544).



# NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

May 4, 2021

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I wanted to reach out to you asking you to remove the “divisive concepts” clauses in H.B. 2 borrowed from the now-tabled H.B. 544 from the Senate version of the state budget.

The sins of racism, sexism, genocide and more continue to wound our nation. When seeking the national healing that God can provide, Christians often refer to 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

This verse points out that God will heal our nation only after humility, confession and repair of past wrongs. Despite how some people present the “divisive concepts” clauses, these provisions will limit our ability to have the honest conversations the God expects of us..

In the Granite State, the NH Council of Churches is made up of nine diverse traditions, including Protestant, Unitarian Universalist and Orthodox bodies. Together, there are about 380 individual congregations across our state. Many of these churches are already having the needed, honest conversations on racism, sexism, genocide and other difficult topics. Some examples include:

1. Our support for last year’s bill requiring Holocaust and Genocide Education in our public schools. The Council continues to participate in this work to ensure that all understand the cost of silent complicity with atrocities at home and around the world. The vague language of the “divisive concepts” clauses jeopardizes this important work.
2. The newly-formed NH Interfaith Collaborative is offering Zoom webinars to train faith communities on how to have difficult conversations in a healthy way. In January, the Interfaith Collaborative invited members of Governor Sununu’s COVID-19 Equity Response Team to speak honestly about racial inequities uncovered in the pandemic.
3. Denominational bodies and local churches have partnered with the Black Heritage Trail to understand better how their historic congregations supported and benefited from trafficking in enslaved people brought here from Africa to our home state.

These are only a few ways that our churches are doing the work that can heal our nation as God intends. This work should show public schools, workplaces and all of us that these conversations are nothing to fear. When it comes time to vote on our budget, stand with our courageous faith communities and strike this language so that we can together see our land healed.

Gratefully,

*Rev. Jason Wells, Executive Director*

PO Box 1087, Concord, NH 03302-1087  
info@nhchurches.org

(603) 219-0889  
www.nhchurches.org

**Debra Martone**

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**From:** Gina Frey <ginagfrey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 2:43 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** I am a NH Voter who oppose HB544 'ban on divisive concepts', Please remove language from the budget

Dear Senators,

**Gina Frey <ginagfrey@gmail.com>**

2:36 PM

to Gary.Daniels

Dear Senator,

I am writing to ask you to remove the language of HB 544 from the NH Budget when it comes up for consideration.

Please reject government censorship and overreach and HB 544.

This HB544 legislation would:

- Violate 1st amendment rights
- Shut down important conversations about racism, sexism, implicit bias and justice,
- Invite costly lawsuits , and
- Does not help anyone

As members of the Senate Finance Committee, you are tasked first and foremost with addressing the budgetary needs of New Hampshire and this HB 544 violates the 1st amendment and has nothing to do with the budget.

Please do not allow this non-germane effort to distract you from fulfilling your legislative and fiduciary responsibility.

Gina Gaboian Frey  
Amherst, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Ellen Groh <ellen@concordhomeless.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 2:47 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** written testimony on budget hearing

To the honorable members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am the Executive Director of the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness. Our agency provides crisis services to meet the immediate needs of people who are homeless, as well as permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals.

I'm writing to urge you to prioritize affordable housing and homeless services in the state's budget.

The state budget should include an increase in funding for homeless services:

- Overall, the state has had a 21% increase in people experiencing homelessness.
- Currently, it costs \$47 per person per night to shelter someone, and the state reimburses \$8.80 of that cost. We need a budget that reimburses at least 50% of the cost of sheltering residents experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, the state budget should include a significant investment in the Affordable Housing Fund. The Affordable Housing Fund provides below market rate loans to leverage the investment of other private and federal resources into affordable housing development. This Fund is critical for addressing the affordable housing shortage in New Hampshire. Adding to NH's stock of affordable housing is essential not only for ending homelessness, but also for workforce recruitment and retention.

Thank you so much for your time.

Ellen Groh  
Executive Director  
Concord Coalition to End Homelessness  
238 N. Main Street, Concord NH 03301  
P.O. Box 3933, Concord NH 03302-3933  
(603) 290-3375, ext 201  
concordhomeless.org



GOOD AFTERNOON MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE .

FOR THE RECORD, MY NAME IS ELISSA MARGOLIN AND I SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF HOUSING ACTION NH. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR YOUR ONGOING SERVICE AND ACCESSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC DURING THIS CHALLENGING TIME.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP ON THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS OUR STATE IS FACING. AS WE EMERGE FROM THE PANDEMIC, THE SEVERE LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING REMAINS A VULNERABILITY IN OUR ECONOMY.

I AM HERE TO UNDERSCORE TWO PRIORITIES FOR OUR STATE'S NEXT BUDGET: **ONE IS THE NH AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND. THE OTHER IS FUNDING FOR HOMELESS SERVICES.**

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR SB 127, THE SENATE BILL, SPONSORED BY SENATOR BRADLEY THAT PROPOSED \$10 MILLION FOR THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND IN ADDITION TO THE \$5 MILLION PER YEAR RETT CARVE OUT FOR A TOTAL OF \$20 MILLION. AS YOU KNOW, THAT BILL RECEIVED UNANIMOUS SUPPORT IN THE SENATE WITH A VOTE OF 24-0. I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF SB 140, THE SENATE BILL SPONSORED BY SENATOR ROSENWALD TO ADDRESS THE HOMELESS SERVICE NEEDS WITH AN \$18 MILLION APPROPRIATION. THAT BILL ALSO RECEIVED UNANIMOUS SUPPORT.

I'LL BRIEFLY SPEAK TO THESE 2 TWO PRIORITIES:

- **THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND** IS OUR STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND – IT HELPS WITH THE PRODUCTION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE INDEED MADE SOME PROGRESS WITH INVESTMENTS IN RECENT YEARS, WE STILL LAG BEHIND ALL OF OUR OTHER NEW ENGLAND, INCLUDING BEHIND VERMONT AND MAINE WHO WE'RE COMPETING WITH FOR WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT. AND, AT A TIME WHEN LUMBER AND BUILDING MATERIALS ARE SKYROCKETING IN COSTS, WE NEED THESE TYPE OF FLEXIBLE FUNDING SO THAT THESE DEVELOPMENT DEALS DON'T FALL APART. AS YOU KNOW, AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRODUCTION DEPENDS ON A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AND WE ASK THAT YOU REMEMBER THE PUBLIC PIECE SO THAT WE'RE ABLE TO LEVERAGE ADDITIONAL PRIVATE INVESTMENT INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.
- **NOW TO HOMELESS SERVICES.** AFTER 4 YEARS OF DECREASING NUMBERS IN NH, WE UNFORTUNATELY DOCUMENTED OVER A 20% INCREASE IN HOMELESSNESS IN THE LAST YEAR. THE LENGTH OF SHELTER STAYS ARE ALSO CONCERNING. WE ASK THAT YOU FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE SENATE'S VOTE IN SB 140 TO ADDRESS THE SHELTER SERVICE COSTS. DHHS HAS DOCUMENTED THAT IT COSTS \$47 PER PERSON PER NIGHT TO SHELTER SOMEONE. THE STATE REIMBURSES THAT COST AT \$8.80. WE ASK THAT YOU INCREASE THESE SERVICES BY \$18 MILLION SO THE STATE CAN START

REIMBURSING ABOUT 50% OF THE CURRENT COSTS AND WE DON'T OVERWHELM OUR STATE'S SHELTER SYSTEM – A CRITICAL PART OF THE ESSENTIAL SAFETY NET.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SERVICE. HOUSING ACTION NH REMAINS COMMITTED TO PARTNERING WITH OUR STATE'S POLICY MAKERS TO ADDRESS OUR HOUSING CHALLENGES.

Elissa Margolin  
Director  
[elissa@housingactionnh.org](mailto:elissa@housingactionnh.org)  
m 603 828 5916

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** April Walker <april@morefrogs.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 3:17 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Oppose HB1 and HB2

Senate Finance Committee members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1 and HB2 and urge you to oppose both bills.

The cuts proposed in the budget will underfund education by as much as \$90 million while not addressing pandemic-related losses to school budgets, which will very likely result in an increase in local property taxes. And never has there been a worse time to cut \$50 million from the Department of Health and Human Services than during a pandemic. Not mention the direct support to cities and towns across the state which has also been cut.

In addition to the harmful funding cuts, the non-fiscal amendments to the budget which seek to prohibit teaching about topics such as racism and sexism, defund family planning clinics, and reduce the governor's ability to declare and continue a state of emergency have the potential to be very damaging.

Especially damaging is the inclusion of language from HB544 "Relative to the Propagation of Divisive Concepts". The inclusion of this amendment in the budget is nothing short of an attack on free speech and the First Amendment rights of all New Hampshire residents.

Seeking to banning discussion of such "divisive concepts" as racism and sexism sends the message that New Hampshire is not welcoming of diversity and is not committed to combatting racial discrimination and injustice. If a budget including HB544 passes it has the very real possibly of making New Hampshire far less appealing to companies and workers to who might otherwise relocate here.

This is not the time to cut vital services, add additional tax burdens to working families, or add unrelated and potentially harmful amendments to the state's budget. Please do the right thing for New Hampshire and oppose HB1 and HB2.

Sincerely,  
April Walker

659 Darling Hill Road  
Greenville, NH 03048



## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Patrice Baker <PBaker@familiesfirstseacoast.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 3:44 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NH Constituent Senate Budget Testimony  
**Attachments:** PDB.RW.FRCletter.docx

I've attached a letter written by myself and a client to illustrate—with a personal example-- the important work of Family Resource Centers in New Hampshire. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Patrice Baker

**Patrice Baker, M.Ed.**  
Parent Education Manager  
Greater Seacoast Community Health  
Tel: 603-422-8209  
[pbaker@familiesfirstseacoast.org](mailto:pbaker@familiesfirstseacoast.org)  
GoodwinCH.org | FamiliesFirstSeacoast.org

### **GREATER SEACOAST COMMUNITY HEALTH**

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**Goodwin** **Families** **Lilac City**  
Community Health **First** Pediatrics

I am writing to share a story from the Family Resource Center of Greater Seacoast Community Health. It's about a grandmother named Robin, who received a phone call two summers ago that changed her life. She was told that she needed to pick up her ten year old grandson that day or he would be going into foster care. (*Note: Robin's words are in italics.*)

Not long after, Robin found her way to our Grandparent Support group, which is just one of many programs we offer at our Goodwin and Families First locations. Our Family Resource Center, like those around the state, offers a variety of services designed to strengthen the five protective factors that keep families strong. Research shows that these conditions, when present in a family, increase the probability of positive, adaptive and healthy outcomes for children even in the face of risk and adversity.

As Robin connected with the other grandparents in the support group, she established a stronger network of **social connections**. She experienced firsthand that talking with others about hard things helps promote healing and decreases shame, stigma and painful isolation.

*Knowing that I was not alone really helped me. I felt so alone at first, but hearing about how other people in the same situation helped themselves gave me reassurance that I could do it too. The group also helped me learn about a lot of resources that are out there.*

We connected Robin to **concrete supports**. This included financial support for an upgrade to her home smoke detector system, back to school supplies, and a new bike for her growing grandson. Families that know how to get help when they need it are better able to stay strong and healthy, even during difficult times.

*The smoke detectors were required in order for us to be "foster parents" and I don't know what we would have done. We could not afford that. The bike—oh my stars—that has given him exercise and confidence. When he first got here he would not go outside alone. Now he will go anywhere with his bike, He has a sense of freedom.*

Robin also had the opportunity to develop **knowledge of parenting and child development** through a twelve-week, evidence-based parenting program at our Family Resource Center. There she gained tools and insights that have helped her become more intentional and less reactive in her parenting. She is more confident and optimistic as she raises her grandson, she has become a leader in the grandparent group, and she is now co-facilitating a parenting program. This opportunity to offer help and support to others further strengthens Robin's own resilience.

*I learned a lot about myself in the parenting classes- how I parented my kid and how I was parented. I learned about mindfulness and breathing—which are two very important things in my life now. I take better care of myself. I learned about paying attention to my grandson, and the importance of listening to him and talking with him about his feelings. We have a very open, honest relationship now.*

Her grandson is healthy, happy and thriving—he loves school and has lots of friends. Here is how Robin describes his transformation over the past two years:

*When Joe (\*not his real name) first came here he was so scared of the dark, he was way behind in school, he hoarded food, and he wouldn't leave my side...he was worried about everything and hyper-focused on his surroundings. Now he's totally redoing his room which is awesome because he knows it's his and he doesn't have to go anywhere.*

*Recently, he worked through some problems with a classmate at school, and he came up with a list of ten strategies to deal with this person. The list included things like "ignore her" and "tell a trusted adult." He has good social skills, and he wants to solve his own problems. He has won awards at school and he really wants to go to college. Fingers crossed he stays excited about college!*

The ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) study has proven with scientific evidence that toxic stress in childhood leads to a higher risk of health and social problems later in life (such as homelessness, unemployment, alcoholism, depression, cancer and obesity), and that this risk is transmitted through generations.) By supporting Robin's personal growth and healing through our Family Resource Center programs, and helping her family to thrive, we are decreasing the risk that her grandson will struggle with the negative health and social consequences of childhood adversity.

The evidence is solid—we *know* what is needed to strengthen families and help prevent childhood abuse and neglect. Brain science has proven that the positive impact of helping parents today changes the health and well-being of future generations. And yet, the current state budget under consideration does not provide enough funding for Family Resource Centers or primary prevention programs for the *next two years*.

On behalf of the Family Resource Center at Greater Seacoast Community Health, I want you to know that we are passionately engaged in continuing to serve NH families, and we need the financial resources to make this happen. When families thrive, communities prosper. We all benefit as we live happier, healthier, more connected lives. Family Resource Centers make a difference in our communities.

Patrice Baker, Kensington  
Robin Witham, Rochester



Greater Tilton Area Family Resource Center  
5 Prospect Street  
Tilton, New Hampshire 03276

April 4, 2021

As a State, we are struggling with multiple crises impacting the health and wellness of our children; the COVID-19 pandemic, problematic substance use, mental health issues, and child abuse and neglect. Our agency works to improve the wellbeing of individuals, families, and the community by providing interventions of varying kinds such as education, concrete support, collaborative relationships, and opportunities to connect to other resources.

We have seen so much unintentional consequences of toxic stress impacting our community. With collaboration with the police departments of three area towns and we have been able to intervene in traumatic situations where children have been present and change the life course trajectory of some while reducing societal costs of arrests in some cases. So much abuse and neglect is the result of stress operating and affecting families as the fight or flight reactions are just quicker to arise in arguments, and COVID has created an environment for many families where stress has been sustained for over a year.

We know this can have long-term, negative consequences on the health and well-being of our children and families. Primary prevention services, such as the programs provided at Family Resource Centers, help to prevent and mitigate childhood trauma and stress. Through support and education, Family Resource Centers help strengthen families by promoting health, well-being and self-sufficiency and positive parenting.

In one family, a teen and father battled to the point of the PD being called. With some outreach by the PD in our Adverse Childhood Experience Response Team, arrests and court time was avoided, interventions were offered and accepted. This prevented additional costs to the family and social systems. Potential further violence to date has been avoided, and healthy social connection in activities has been enhanced.

An individual supported by our peer recovery support program, initiated recovery from opioid use four years ago with support from our recovery coaches and family support staff. She enrolled and completed a parenting class. She began volunteering. She joined an AmeriCorps program and reconnected with her children. Through connection and accessing supports she has come off social security and is working full time. She gained more parenting time. This week, she purchased her first home. She has become a valued parent leader in our community giving back to the systems that supported her recovery instead of continuing to rely on them for survival.

Enhancing self-sufficiency is a common goal in both recovery and prevention programs. Building resilience, healthy social connection, knowledge of childhood development that enhances parenting, access to concrete resources in times of need such as food, assistance with overhead bills that pile up when a family member is suddenly out of work... small interventions such as getting a driver's license copy for \$10 can be the thing that allows someone to get back to work. Family Resource Centers are known for assisting in removing barriers for families to become more self-sufficient.

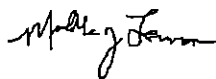
Children are the future of our state. We must promote the well-being and healthy development of all children and families to set a sturdy foundation to nurture lifelong health and learning. Primary prevention programs that promote brain development and reduce toxic stress during children's early years are more effective and less costly than repairing issues later in life. For New Hampshire of these program shows a return of \$4 to \$6 for every dollar invested by reducing societal costs associated with poor health and academic child protection, K-12 special education, grade retention and criminal justice expenses. My belief is it is higher than that. One family not experiencing arrests due to the ACERT intervention, saves literally thousands in societal costs in the short run. In the long run, it can be even greater cost avoided.

If you check in the with Tilton Town Welfare Director, I am certain she would share story after story of how we have saved our town money and worked to bring incredible changes in the lives of some of our participants in programming, and their families.

Everyone needs a little help sometimes. Not everyone has family and friends to count on for that help. It is our privilege to be invited into the lives of the families we serve. With our state initiatives for early childhood growing, it is our hope to continue to collaborate for the benefit of our community families.

To build on the strength of New Hampshire families, I urge our Senators to fund a robust system of family resource centers, which provide essential support to families at home and in their communities.

Sincerely,



Michelle J. Lennon, Executive Director  
Greater Tilton Area Family Resource Center  
(Centers in Tilton and Franklin)

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

We cannot expect better outcomes for children and families when we continue to cut funding. The brain develops the most during the first 3 years of life. Any connections and experiences that are missed during those first 3 years can be made up, but now we are doing catch-up work that will require more expensive and intensive support. We live in a society that benefits from systematic racism; and even though no one alive created this system, it is still the reality we are all living in. A growing number of our population, specifically young children growing up in minority and low-income neighborhoods, do not have easy access to the resources they need. While 10% of all children live in poverty, that percentage jumps to 29% when looking at African American and Latinx children in Hillsborough County. If the parents and caregivers of these children don't have the basic skills and resources to better themselves, how can we expect them to be able to raise strong and resilient children? All of the largest societal issues we see plaguing our cities today: crime, addiction, suicide, mental illness; could be easily and effectively combatted with investment in early childhood intervention.

Family Resource Centers are a necessity in our communities. When considering the circumstances of the lives that have been created for these children and their families, Family Resource Centers are in a unique position to provide timely help and long-lasting support for families that have been proven to make a difference. One Family Resource Center located here in Nashua provides support all the way from pregnancy through the child's school years; critical reinforcement that parents would not have access to otherwise.

If we want to see positive outcomes for our future generations, we need to start make investments in Family Resource Centers right now.

I implore our local leaders and legislators to keep advocating on behalf of our youngest citizens and those who care for them. It is the most cost-effective way for us to assist the parents, children, educators, and ultimately the workforce of today and the future. Please support funding for Family Resource Centers.

Jessica Hägg

Education & Community Leadership Undergrad Student

Rivier University



April 28, 2021

Dear Senators,

I am asking for your support related to children in NH. As a State, we are struggling with multiple crises impacting the health and wellness of our children; the COVID-19 pandemic, substance misuse, mental health, and child abuse and neglect. These situations, which cause toxic stress, can have long-term, negative consequences on the health and well-being of our children and families. Primary prevention services, such as the programs provided at Family Resource Centers, help to prevent and mitigate childhood trauma and stress. Through support and education, Family Resource Centers help strengthen families by promoting health, well-being and self-sufficiency and positive parenting.

The Upper Room, A Family Resource Center in Derry NH, is serving southern NH, and has found that some families are extremely fragile, especially when a recent event has occurred within the family such as incarceration, or loss of life due to substance misuse. When engaging with these families we are finding that we need to approach families with great care, and that these children have the capacity to overcome, and gain resiliency skills, when we work together with them, their current natural supports, and our trained staff to develop a strong family plan which includes stabilization, access to support and resources, and follow along care through groups and case management support. Family Resource Centers are located throughout the state and offer a system of care and support that builds family strengths and capacity.

Children are the future of our state. We must promote the well-being and healthy development of all children and families to set a sturdy foundation to nurture lifelong health and learning. Primary prevention programs that promote brain development and reduce toxic stress during children's early years are more effective and less costly than repairing issues later in life. For New Hampshire of these program shows a return of \$4 to \$6 for every dollar invested by reducing societal costs associated with poor health and academic child protection, K-12 special education, grade retention and criminal justice expenses.

To build on the strength of New Hampshire families, I urge our Senators to fund a robust system of family resource centers, which provide essential support to families at home and in their communities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Guggisberg, Executive Director

36 Fennell Road  
PO Box 1017  
Derry, New Hampshire 03038-1017

603-437-8477  
Fax: 603-425-6256

[www.urteachers.org](http://www.urteachers.org)





As the Executive Director of TLC Family Resource Center (FRC) in Claremont and parent of three, I am acutely aware that the goal for all families to be 100% self-sufficient is impractical. Self-sufficiency implies there are enough living wage jobs, as well as accessible and affordable healthcare, childcare, transportation and housing for everyone. FRCs are offering a more practical goal. We partner with families and each other to weave together supports that strengthen us individually and as a community.

At the TLC Family Resource Center our supports include basic needs that keep families safe and healthy such as rent, gas, food, and childcare, but our organizations also work alongside families to build skills and knowledge that support optimal development for young children while preventing adverse childhood experiences. Through home visits and community programs, we are ensuring children in our state have a strong foundation for lifelong health and learning.

As we work on improving outcomes for children and families from all backgrounds, one of FRC's biggest challenges is sustainable funding. Currently, the state's investment in FRCs is being debated. This has a negative impact on our ability to hire qualified staff and serve the growing number of families being referred to us. With a stable state investment, FRCs can further provide high quality evidence-based services, home visiting, and concrete resources and supports that strengthen families and ensure children have opportunities to grow and thrive in a healthy environment.

I want our legislators to understand that children are the future of our state. We must promote the well-being and healthy development of all children and families to set a sturdy foundation to nurture lifelong health and learning. Primary prevention programs that promote brain development and reduce toxic stress during children's early years are more effective and less costly than repairing issues later in life. For New Hampshire of these program shows a return of \$4 to \$6 for every dollar invested by reducing societal costs associated with poor health and academic child protection, K-12 special education, grade retention and criminal justice expenses.

To build on the strength of New Hampshire families, I urge our Senators to fund a robust system of family resource centers, which provide essential support to families at home and in their communities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Slayton, LCSW  
Executive Director  
TLC Family Resource Center  
Claremont, NH 03743



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Mary Kaplan <mvallierkaplan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 3:56 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Adding funds for tha Adult Medicid Dental Benefit

I am writing to ask the Senate Finance Committee to add funds to HB1 to cover the costs of an Adult Medicaid Dental Benefit. Doing so is consistent with the earlier unanimous vote of the Senate for SB150 to support an Adult Medicaid Dental Benefit. This is the opportunity for NH to fund a benefit allowing for integrated cost-effective medical/dental care and in turn supports cost-effective treatment in the right setting at the right time (not in the ER on nights and weekends), readiness for employment as more Medicaid recipients are required to look for work, and an opportunity to not further exacerbate substance misuse by treating symptoms rather than the underlying dental problems.

Thank you for your leadership on this matter.

Mary Vallier-Kaplan  
20 Timberpond Dr, Peterborough, NH 03458  
603-924-3214



# New Hampshire Oral Health Coalition

May 4, 2021

To: NH Senate Finance Committee  
Re: HB 1 – State Budget

**Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1. We ask this committee to include funding for a Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit in support of responsible management of scarce resources.**

This request supports the opportunity for integrated health delivery of medical and dental care by funding the *inclusion of oral health and dental services for adults into a Medicaid managed care program*. This adds value to our current investment of dollars already being spent for health care through the current Medicaid program.

**We appreciate the unanimous Senate support this session of SB150 that defines the scope and implementation of a such a benefit.**

#### **Key Factors:**

- (1) This is the opportunity for NH to fund that benefit allowing for integrated cost-effective medical/dental care that supports (a) dental treatment in the right setting at the right time (b) readiness for employment and education (c) the opportunity for successful substance abuse treatment and extended recovery.
- (2) Dental disease is associated with over 100 medical diseases and conditions that can result in increased chronic care costs, avoidable hospitalizations, and emergency room visits that provide antibiotics and pain relief but no dental repair at a very high cost drawn from scarce Medicaid funds.

Funding the benefit in this session will put **your YES vote** into action and serve to establish a pathway for cost-effective, integrated medical/dental care.

#### **Additional Background:**

#### **WHY an integrated model?**

Oral health has been associated with many health diagnoses and conditions, including costly chronic conditions such as heart and lung diseases, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, and others including several that are leading causes of death in NH and the nation; acute illnesses such as pneumonia and cancer; and an increased risk of premature births. Early and effective integrated care can be associated with reducing the related costs that are reflected in our current public and private health expenditures.

## Steering Committee

Helen Taft, Chair  
*Member-at-Large*  
Stephanie Pagliuca, Secretary  
*Bi-State Primary Care Association*  
Annette Cole  
*NH Area Health Education Center*  
Michael Auerbach  
*NH Dental Society*  
Suzanne Boulter  
*NH Pediatric Society*  
Elizabeth Brown  
NH Technical Institute, Concord's Community  
College -*Educator*  
Patrick Capozzi  
*NH Academy of Pediatric Dentistry*  
Pam Delahanty  
*NH Dental Hygienists' Association*  
Sarah Finne, ex-officio  
*NH Department of Health and Human Services,*  
*Executive Representative*  
LeaAnne Haney  
Northeast Delta Dental  
*Dental Insurance Carrier*  
Ashley Wilder  
NH Public Health Association  
*Fiscal Sponsor Liaison*  
Open Seat  
*Member-at-Large*  
Elizabeth Mitchell  
*NH Nurse Practitioner Association*  
Laural Dillon, ex-officio  
*Department of Health and Human Services –*  
*Public Health*  
Mary Vallier-Kaplan  
*Philanthropic Funder*  
Catrina Watson  
*NH Medical Society*

Basically, if you don't manage dental disease, you cannot manage health care and its costs.

Additionally, poor oral health and a lack of dental care has been linked to the substance misuse and opioid crisis through

- The difficulty in managing the acute and chronic dental pain of untreated dental disease; and
- The negative impact on employability related to both appearance and pain management issues.

Ongoing chronic dental pain remains a gateway for substance abuse initiation, maintenance, and recovery relapse.

### The high cost of deferred, delayed or denied dental care.

With limited or no resources to access the private, traditional dental care system, or even the community-based sliding fee clinics, many individuals present at the hospital emergency department for infection or severe pain. Generally, hospital emergency departments do not have the ability to provide dental care, so the patient is treated with antibiotics and pain relievers and given a referral to dentistry back in the community. *Creating a cycle of expensive care with no repair.*

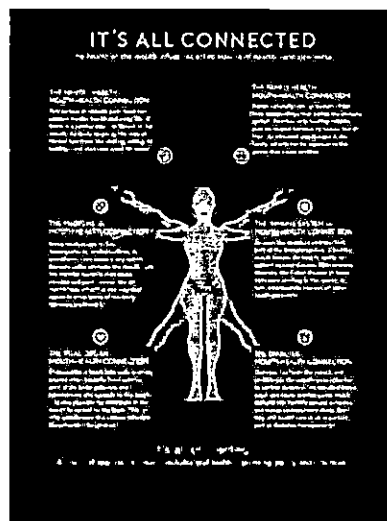
Costs in primary community medical care and hospital care reflect not only the direct cost of untreated dental but also the indirect expense of the impact of poor oral health on chronic and acute care, and substance treatment as noted above.

### The two-generation problem

Dental decay is caused by bacteria. Children are born with sterile mouths and they acquire the bacteria through normal, daily contact within their families and caregivers.

For children qualified for Medicaid, under federal law, there is mandatory, comprehensive dental and oral health care. That care can range from simple cleanings and prevention up through stabilization (arresting decay) and restoration (repairing tooth structure) including extensive restoration requiring the use of operating rooms for multiple extractions and restoration such as caps. Costs can be as high as \$10,000 +. If that child then returns home to parents, siblings, or caregivers with decay, the child's mouth can be re-infected, and the process of dental disease begins again. A dental benefit that treats the disease in the adults as well as the children is a *responsible approach to protecting our investment.*

When individuals are forced to forgo timely care and treatment, *the individual, community, the county and state costs go up.* An integrated adult oral health and dental benefit can open the door to timely and accessible treatment options in community-based and traditional treatment settings. Remember, "It's All Connected!"



As always, please feel free to contact us at the NH Oral Health Coalition if we can provide you with additional information or assist you in any way.

Gail T. Brown, JD, MSW [gbrown@nhoralhealth.org](mailto:gbrown@nhoralhealth.org)  
Director, NH Oral Health Coalition [www.nhoralhealth.org](http://www.nhoralhealth.org)  
603-415-5550

*The NH Oral Health Coalition is the only in-state group of organizations, agencies, and individuals, focused solely on the status and impact of oral health issues facing New Hampshire. The Coalition is representative of those involved in oral health provision, planning, policymaking and funding, including the dental and medical communities, the legislature, educational programs, advocacy groups, insurance providers, state agency leaders, and private funders. Today, the Coalition serves as the backbone organization for an expanding network addressing equity, community-based program and work force models, medical-dental integration, prevention, timely intervention, and access. We are putting the "mouth back into the body" with a focus on its relationship to overall health and productivity.*

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Existing health challenges and disparities have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, placing a huge responsibility on parents, like me, as well as community-based supports, like Regional Public Health Networks. **I urge lawmakers to ensure access to qualified mental health professionals for all by sustaining Medicaid reimbursement rates and funding for Public Health Networks and Community Health Workers.** This will help to protect the well-being of New Hampshire for years to come.

Prior to the pandemic, my 14-year-old daughter, who experiences a significant disability, was active at her middle school and enjoyed many aspects of life within the community including cheerleading, hanging out with friends, chorus, art classes and much more. School was her world and she truly enjoyed learning. Once the pandemic hit, she was immediately isolated from everything she knew including her closest friends.

Her world became infinitely smaller, and I became her teacher, aide, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist and keep up with necessary elements of home life. The pandemic has shone a spotlight on the already existing gap in appropriate mental health services for children. Like so many other kids, over the course of this pandemic, she has experienced profound loss, frustration, anger and sadness. However, unlike other kids her age, she is not able to easily express her emotions and it comes out in extremely maladaptive ways such as pulling hair (hers or others), pushing, screaming or withdrawing. It is becoming harder to engage her in remote school, and she often will escape to her room or become aggressive in order to avoid school. She is now allowed to attend one hour of school a day with her special education teacher but with the re-opening of schools, my concern is that she will not be able to easily regulate her frustration, confusion and anger when she witnesses other children attending school and she is not able to do so. This could result in more maladaptive behaviors that could be misconstrued as defiant.

We need to grow and sustain mental health services for all children including those that experience disabilities. In order to do this, we need to ensure that the Medicaid reimbursement is commensurate with the expertise that these services require in order to be run efficiently and with evidence informed practices. Doing so helps those that are the most vulnerable access qualified mental health professionals in the community in order to grow into healthy and thriving adults.

Public Health Networks keep NH safe and strong with their local evidence-based programs, services, and workers, including Community Health Workers (CHWs). CHWs are the frontline liaison between public health services and their community. As trusted members of their communities, CHWs improve access, quality and cultural competence of services, thereby improving health outcomes, reducing health care costs, and bridging gaps in health disparities.

I advocate that lawmakers **ensure access to qualified mental health professionals for all by sustaining Medicaid reimbursement rates and funding for Public Health Networks and vital Community Health Workers.** These programs help improve the health and wellness of all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy S. Girouard  
22 N. Curtisville Road  
Concord NH 03301  
603 738-0887

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Donna Steinberg <donna.steinberg.psychologist@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 4:07 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB2

Dear Senator,

I have a business in New Hampshire and am AGAINST HB2 if it includes HB 544. We must protect free speech, and stand up for racial injustices.

Donna Steinberg, Ph.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
(802) 299-6359

[www.donnasteinberg.com](http://www.donnasteinberg.com)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Laura Hegfield <laurahegfield@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 4:20 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Vote NO on HB2

Dear Committee Members,

As a constituent living in Amherst, NH. I strongly urge you to **oppose including the language of HB 544 in the upcoming budget as an amendment** Listening, teaching, learning, about our history as a nation in regard to systemic racism, LGBTQ discrimination and women's rights is essential to bringing about desperately needed change and healing for the benefit of all members of our currently inequitable society, now and into the future. If you don't see it/hear it/know about it, it is as if it is not happening, except it is! And the only way forward is FORWARD, not back.

In addition to the moral import of opposing this bill, *there are economic ramifications that will surely follow if it passes*. Due the rapidly aging population of our state, we need an influx of new, younger workers. In order to attract them, we must create a more welcoming place where diversity is respected, appreciated and embraced for the richness each person, no matter who they are, brings to with them. THEY will not COME if this bill passes! Republican, Democrat, Independent, this bill is not good for anyone in NH.

With deep concern,  
Laura Hegfield, Amherst NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Christine Arsnow <christine.arsnow@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 4:27 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov  
**Subject:** NH American Academy of Pediatrics opposes HB2

To the members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Christine Arsnow, MD. I am a pediatrician in Concord and the vice president of the NH chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I am also a mother of two young girls. I am writing to ask you to oppose HB 2 because of one particularly dangerous item #76 which "defines and prohibits the dissemination of certain divisive concepts related to sex and race in state contracts, grants, and training programs." There is overwhelming evidence that people of color experience unique social, economic, and healthcare related hardships in our country. The pandemic has forced millions of women out of the workplace and highlighted the disadvantages that women in our country experience. The reasons behind racial and gender inequality are complicated and multifactorial, but one thing is clear: we need to keep talking about these problems if we want to fix them. By limiting the discussion of race and other "divisive concepts" in any training programs, we will not make progress towards gender and racial equality. Thank you for opposing this bill.

Christine Arsnow, MD

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Christine Arsnow

781.864.6525



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Josh Conklin <joshuarconklin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 4:43 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NH Voters who oppose HB544 'ban on divisive concepts', Please remove language from the budget.

Dear Senators,

I am writing to ask you to remove the language of HB 544 from the NH Budget when it comes up for consideration.

If we truly wish to address the downsides of "cancel culture" we cannot cancel conversation and HB 544 is a dangerous step in that direction.

This HB544 legislation would:

- Violate 1st amendment rights
- Shut down important conversations about racism, sexism, implicit bias and justice,
- Invite costly lawsuits , and

As members of the Senate Finance Committee, you are tasked first and foremost with addressing the budgetary needs of New Hampshire and this HB 544 violates the 1st amendment and has nothing to do with the budget.

Please do not allow this non-germane effort to distract you from fulfilling your legislative and fiduciary responsibility.

Sincerely

Josh Conklin  
Amherst, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** TERESA MOLER <t\_moler@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 4:49 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 opposition testimony

I'm Teresa Moler and a person in remission from a mental health problem.

What I would like to see happen, is that all people with mental health problems, family members, providers, and mental health facilities have the funds needed to provide treatment. That would involve funding from the government.

Although I am in remission, on a seldom occasion, I find myself in need of emergency treatment.

Recently on a weekend evening, I was in crisis and came up short finding support. Everything was closed or involved waiting too long.

I want to see 24 hours a day 7 days a week access to mental health treatment for all.

And it takes funding to pay for that and attract providers.

Thank you

Teresa Moler  
selectman. Ward 2  
Nashua

April 30, 2021

Honorable Gary Daniels, Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
Concord, NH 03301

Chairman Weyler and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon,

My name is Ginny Nossiff, and I live in Conway NH. I'm here to ask you to join with me in opposition of CUTS to mental health services in HB1.

I oppose HB1 in its current state and urge you to reinstate funds that support implementing a statewide mental health system that works for all of our citizens, and especially those of us in the north country. Before 2018 I believed that if I had a serious medical emergency, that someone could help me or my loved ones. In 2018 my son was attending UNH as a sophomore engineering student. He came home one weekend and was clearly beginning to hallucinate, signifying the early stages of first episode psychosis – a serious mental health condition that unless you've seen this in a loved one, you may not know the pain, anguish and fear facing that family.

He was confused, frightened, and began to make statements that made no sense. We were uncertain about what to do, had no experience with this type of illness. I tried calling an emergency phone number and was told that mobile crisis units only cover southern NH and that we would have to take him to the ER. We were told by an on-call counselor with the county mental health agency, Northern Human Services, to try to give him chamomile tea. It was unreal, as if we were watching this nightmare unfold in a movie.

Because we had no other options, we brought him to the emergency room at Memorial Hospital in North Conway. He laid in a windowless room on a mattress on the floor for 2 ½ weeks with no psychiatric care provided, because there was no room at New Hampshire Hospital or any other designated receiving facility for those in a mental health crisis. NOW, just imagine, going to an ER with a broken leg or stroke and receiving no care for 2 ½ weeks because the proper medical treatment was not available anywhere in the state of NH. Every person we spoke to from NHH to the ER, to Northern Human Services and back to NHH told us it was someone else's responsibility, and that the system was broken. How had the mental health care come to this in our state? I was ashamed of our state and so distraught for my son and our family.

Had there been a mobile crisis unit that could have traveled to my house or had there been a facility that could provide the proper treatment or had there even been staff that was trained in psychiatric care that could have helped him, his outcome could have been better. Science has demonstrated that early intervention in the onset of psychiatric emergencies can improve long term prognosis and prevent structural brain damage. It's imperative that we treat all psychiatric patients in a timely, effective and respectful manner.

For all of the individuals and their families affected by mental illness in our state, I urge you to oppose the cuts made to mental health services in HB1.

Thank you,  
Virginia Nossiff  
Conway, NH  
[ginnossiff@gmail.com](mailto:ginnossiff@gmail.com)  
184 Brownfield Rd  
Center Conway, NH 03813  
(603) 447-5509 H  
(603) 630-3574 C



**American Heart Association**  
2 Wall Street | Manchester, NH 03101

May 4, 2021

The Honorable Gary Daniels  
Senate Finance Committee  
107 North Main St.  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Testimony regarding State Budget Requests

Dear Senator Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee;

As the Senate Finance Committee considers the critical needs of Granite Staters in the state budget, the American Heart Association asks that you support funding two of the most impactful ways to help improve health. A total of \$500,000 per year within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) budget would fund a food assistance program to help under resourced and struggling citizens, and cessation resources to help youth stop vaping, and adults trying to quit smoking.

New Hampshire's food assistance program is a lifeline for thousands of Granite Staters, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, who at times struggle to put food on their tables. **A modest investment of \$200,000 each year will create a dollar-for-dollar match of state funds to Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits spent on healthy produce at farmers markets and participating NH grocery stores.** This will help increase food access, make diets healthier and lessen chronic illnesses, like heart disease and type 2 diabetes. The money spent on fruit and vegetables also produces economic benefits for local farmers and our communities. **This incentive program was supported unanimously by the Senate when SB 98 passed earlier this session to establish a SNAP produce incentive program.**

The American Heart Association is also a proud member of the Tobacco Free NH network, dedicated to evidence-based policy to reduce the vaping epidemic among youth, and help adults succeed in quitting smoking. And we are all greatly concerned about the tobacco use rate in NH; both among underaged youth and the 15.9% of adult tobacco users.

One third of youth in our state are using tobacco products and many are now addicted to nicotine, caused largely by electronic cigarettes. While the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends NH, based on our population size, fund a comprehensive tobacco control program at \$16.5 million annually. NH has funded tobacco control at less than \$400,000 per year. The DHHS, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program, has prioritized a cessation initiative specifically tailored for those under age 18, which includes access to 'My Life, My Quit', an evidence-based cessation resource for youth. Unfortunately, funding for this was not included in the House Budget. NH can not afford to wait any

longer to invest in cessation resources to help our youth avoid a lifetime of nicotine addiction, serious illness and premature death. The DHHS requests funding of \$220,000 for this initiative.

Over this past year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, adults cited concerns over health impacts related to tobacco use, while seeking cessation resources through the NH Quitline. This program has also been underfunded, and more people including those on Medicaid, can be helped to quit smoking with additional funding. The American Heart Association urges you to include additional funding for the QuitLine. **An investment of \$300,000 per year would support both programs, and help youth and adults quit tobacco and live healthier lives.** Not only would this funding save lives, it would reduce the staggering healthcare costs associated with tobacco-related illness, at \$729 million per year in NH.

In addition, to this critical public health funding, the American Heart Association asks that you remove a provision included in the House Budget, which repeals the enforcement authority of the NH Liquor Commission. The section abolishes 21 enforcement positions within the NH Liquor Commission- Division of Liquor Enforcement- and renames it to the Division of "Licensing and Education". Simply put, this move will jeopardize the safe operation of licensed vaping and alcohol establishments and the Division's ability to protect vulnerable under-aged youth. It will likely also put at risk the \$12.8 million grant the Department of Human Health Services receives through the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration. Under this grant, states are required to provide documentation for compliance and enforcement of youth tobacco access laws, which are currently under the NH Liquor Commission, Division of Enforcement.

The American Heart Association is committed to helping our country achieve health equity so everyone has a fair chance to live a long and healthy life. A state budget that increases funding for tobacco cessation and increases access to nutritious fruits and vegetables will greatly help us all meet these important public health goals.

Thank you for your consideration of these funding priorities. Please consider us as a resource on these and other health policy issues.

Sincerely,

*Nancy S Vaughan*

Nancy Vaughan  
Director of Government Relations, New Hampshire  
American Heart Association

603-566-5658 or [nancy.vaughan@heart.org](mailto:nancy.vaughan@heart.org)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** wa1jsb@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 4:51 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Senate Finance Committee: Opposition to both HB1 and HB2

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Dear members of the New Hampshire Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing in opposition to both House Bill 1 and House Bill 2 concerning the State Budget for fiscal 2021 and 2022.

Other than attempting to decimate budgets for Cities and Towns across New Hampshire as well as killing off any attempts for New Hampshire to meet its environmental obligations, leads one to the belief that there are a few redeeming qualities in this proposed budget. Would you be trying to make the New Hampshire citizenry angry? My own community, Nashua, would lose \$5.9 million in State funding. If that is a measure of the statewide effect of the budget, you're probably not going to be making friends.

The additional points I wish to highlight are as follows:

- The bill discriminates against children with special needs. This is fundamental because private schools are not required to offer individualized instruction to students with special needs.
- Children in property poor towns will, once again, receive the short end of the stick, regarding competitive educational opportunities. This inequality reveals itself acutely for these students preparing themselves for high school, for vocational training and/or college placement.
- Cutting budgets to underfund statutory obligations regarding environmental initiatives makes no sense at a time when our nation and the world are working to protect our natural resources.

I urge to vote against these bills.

Very truly yours,  
Michael A. Joseph

184 Main Street, Ste 309  
Nashua, NH 03060-2706

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Brinn Sullivan <bsullivan@cityofportsmouth.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 4:51 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Support \$1.5M for Senior Centers

Dear State Finance Committee:

As President of the NH Association of Senior Centers, I am writing in support to restore the Governor's \$1.5 Million for senior center to support services that combat struggles with mental health and social isolation.

That is exactly what senior centers do! Through a variety of fitness, fun and enriching activities senior centers combat mental health and social isolation. These age-friendly hubs connect people to activities, friends, services, resources, programs – all of which support the older adult population. Many folks will be drawn to a senior center for an activity like chair yoga, but stay for the friends. They say they need to work on their strength, but really they are seeking connection, friendship and a schedule to their week that gives them purpose.

Senior Centers throughout NH are working hard to connect seniors to services including meals and transportation - but they are so much more than that. They are also the gathering space for fitness, enrichment, education, and social engagement. Senior Centers are where seniors come together to improve their physical and mental well-being.

***It is vital that the State of NH support senior centers in this vital time of isolation and precarious mental health. We need a way back together and by offering financial support to senior centers then we offer a way to restore a sense of community, re-connect and re-engage older residents.***

Thank you for your consideration. It would be a wonderful thing to see older adults supported by offering funding to their social centers.

Sincerely,

Ms. Brinn Sullivan  
President, NH Association of Senior Centers  
Portsmouth Senior Activity Center  
Age-Friendly Community



Brinn Sullivan  
Recreation & Senior Services Department  
City of Portsmouth, NH  
(603) 610-4433 | Cell: (603) 767-2697  
[www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation)





## Conway Village Fire District

*A Village District in the Town of Conway, NH*

128 West Main Street

Conway, NH 03818

Phone: 447-5470 Fax: 447-3271

www.cvillagefd.com

*This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider*



April 13, 2021

Senate Finance Committee  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

Regarding: HB 2

Dear Senators,

In 2006 The Conway Village Fire District passed two (2) warrant articles to undertake \$42.625M in water and wastewater infrastructure improvements. These articles were passed with the understanding that grants would be received under RSA 486.

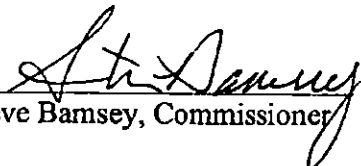
RSA 486 states that the State shall pay annually for qualifying projects. HB 2 removed this funding from this budget resulting in no grant payments to new projects and suspending payments for existing grants. Conway Village Fire District has been receiving State Aid Grants since 2014 and depends on these to make its debt payments. These grants have been approved by Governor and Council and are currently being paid through the Department of Environmental Service's efficiency budget.

It is vital that the \$15.6 million be added back into the state's budget to ensure the statutorily required annual principal and interest payments can be paid. Conway Village will be paying the total sewer debt service of over \$630,000 annually without these grant funds; this is unsustainable for our small district. Conway Village Fire District has some of the highest rates in the state as it is, without the State Aid Funds our rates will go up astronomically.

We, the Commissioners of The Conway Village Fire District urge you to restore this funding. Your support of the DES budget will have a direct impact on the constituents you represent.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

  
Steve Barnsey, Commissioner

  
Michael Digregorio Commissioner

  
Tom Buco, Commissioner



## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Shana Potvin <shanapotvin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 5:15 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove school voucher (ESA) language from the budget

I am emailing again to urge you to remove the school voucher language from the budget. This is a complex issue and should not be pushed through without the proper due diligence that it deserves. Adding it to the budget is not the right way to accomplish this.

Thank you,

Shana Potvin

233 Joppa Hill Rd, Bedford, NH 03110

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Dr. Chris Chance <connect@drchrischance.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 5:17 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB2 with HB 544 attached

Dear Legislators,

I understand the attached bill would limit teachers ability to provide a safe forum to discuss realities in our society such as racism and sexism.

This is not helpful. I am a mother, and experienced Practicing PhD level Clinical Psychologist.

We need to train people to moderate and facilitate difficult discussions well (with skillful compassion for all), not ban discussion about social realities.

Thank you for noting my opinion.

Please let me know if you need more in depth professional input on the dangers of the suggested approach.

NH Psychological Association members would be happy to help educate on the complexities that deserve consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris M Chance, PHD  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
NH 901

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Office phone: 603-573-6761

Personal cell: 603-568-9206

Sent from my iPhone

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Dianne batchelderpratt <diannebatchelderpratt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 5:20 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Bill HB1

My name is Dianne Pratt  
I live in Webster NH  
I am opposed to this Bill HB1

Please listen to my story...

I want you all to be aware of what's going on. I am only aware of this because I have been living through it.

I have a 13 year old... family member who has been to concord hospital ( blue pod/  
Yellow pod area ) for mental health issues.

5 times this calendar year, so far. In that

Time this 13 year old has spent. 51

Days waiting for a bed to open up at Hampstead hospital or NH hospital.

There is such a wait. Children all over the state are rotting away in these tiny little rooms probably about the size of a prison cell with no windows and adults as well.

That is 51 days in a 13 year olds life that could have been in a facility more equipped for this type of care. If I count the last year and 4 months. This 13 year old has been to Concord hospital 6 times.

And the days waiting to get a bed available at a different facility would be 64 days.

That is more than 2 months of a 13 year old childs life. That is plain WRONG !

We are FAILING our children and adults

That have mental health issues. To live through this is it's own type of hell that you can never truly know unless you lived through it. And to be compounded by the waiting. And waiting. Its WRONG!

we are in a mental health crisis compounded due to a pandemic. I am a Republican and do not like to spend money. But this is ABSOLUTELY not the time to save money in this area. People are LITERALLY DYING .

HOW CAN WE DO NOTHING? We need more beds available in pyciatric facilities, we need to expand our mobile crisis.  
PLEASE HELP

My name is Dianne Batchelder Pratt

I am opposed to bill HB1

AND SHAME ON ALL OF US

if we do not

Fix this!

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Marshall Thomas <thomas.marshall@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 5:51 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB2

I am writing to ask that HB544 language be exclude from State Budget. Thanks you..Elaine Thomas

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Robyn Saulnier <robynpsaulnier@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 6:05 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone

I am a parent and I work at a public school, I was always taught that private schools are privately funded not government funded. As a child my parents paid tuition or they did some kind of work for the school to lower their tuition. My taxpayer dollars should be going to public schools. Our school is poor and we could use the money to educate our children better, new books not info that is 20 years old. We are educating the future Leaders of tomorrow, public schools need the government's help. My 2 boy want to be doctor's or a lawyer to fight for victims rights they are both Survivors help our future.

Thank you,

Robyn Saulnier

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Debra Foster <debhfoster@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 6:10 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposed to SB 130

Dear Senate Committee,  
I oppose Senate Bill 130 for the following reasons:

A bill like SB130 should be a stand-alone bill subject to the normal scrutiny used when new programs with significant impacts are being considered

This is no way to handle a bill that would significantly change the educational landscape

In a pandemic year with little scrutiny by the public, how irresponsible of this committee to hide it in the budget

Our public schools need more support from the State, not less now that we are 50th in the country for State support.

Former School Board member, parent, and property tax payer,  
Debra Foster  
11 Stark Highway South  
Dunbarton, NH 03046

May 4, 2021

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Debrah Howes. I am a resident, voter, and property taxpayer in Hudson for nearly 30 years. I am also a teacher in Nashua for 18 years. I am the Vice-President of the Nashua Teachers' Union, the Vice-President of AFT-NH as well as a member of the Executive Council of NH AFL-CIO. I am here today to talk about the budget: what belongs in it and what doesn't. I will start with something that do not belong in the budget and then end with something that does.

First, school vouchers, or as some might call them "Education Freedom Savings Accounts" do not belong in the state budget. New Hampshire has a longstanding problem with underfunding its public schools. Witness the numerous lawsuits on this topic: Claremont, Claremont 2. The state is being sued currently by a group of school districts lead by Con-Val. The voucher program envisioned by SB130 does nothing to solve the problem of the disparate ability to fund an adequate education through local property taxes: in fact, it exacerbates it. We are perennially told there is only so much money to go around, yet vouchers would start by draining \$70 to \$90 million of this limited education funding over 3 years to help students who are already in private schools or being homeschooled. For anyone who claims that this will decrease costs to the public schools, these students are not currently in public schools. That same limited pool of money is now being split more ways.

Under this proposal public schools would also lose some students who took a voucher and switched to another educational option. The last time we saw SB130 that was capped at students whose families earned 300% of federal poverty rate, which is about 38% of New Hampshire's public-school students. Of course, that is very few students in a town like Newcastle, where very few families live near the rate of poverty. That is a lot of students in a city like Nashua or Manchester where there are more families living closer to the poverty line. Even assuming a modest adoption rate of 3% of those eligible, a school like mine of 300 students could lose about a classrooms' worth of students in 2 ½ years – and the funding that goes with them. Of course, they would not be all in the same grade level, so it's not as simple as laying off one teacher to make up for the lost funding. The difference will be made up in other ways. I will leave it to others to describe the lack of financial or academic oversight in the proposal, and the potential problems with students going out and coming back into public schools within the same year, or leaving the public school except for Special Education services, while all their funding is taken away in a voucher.

With students leaving the public schools under a voucher program, local districts will have to choose between raising property taxes because the state is downshifting more education costs onto them, looking for programmatic cuts that seem to be extras: like arts and music, gifted programs, or consolidating classrooms or schools so they can make those cost saving reductions in teachers and paraeducators. This will force already struggling public schools to eliminate those markers of a quality education that every parent value most for their children: individual attention from the teacher, support from a paraeducator when they need it, well-rounded programs that include arts, music and STEM. If adopted, on its own or part of the budget, the voucher program envisioned in SB130 would further disadvantage all public schools and do the most damage to those in property poor towns and cities. It is a race to the bottom.

What we really need in the state budget is robust, but targeted, state aid to bring all of New Hampshire's public schools to a level playing field so that the public educational opportunities available to a student don't depend on whether they live in a wealthy community with few children or a large city with many children compared to the size of its tax base. All public-school children deserve to go to a great neighborhood school with a teacher who knows them, who cares about them, who can notice their interests and spark their curiosity. They deserve help from a paraeducator to review the skills they are working to learn. They deserve a rich curriculum with STEM and STEAM. They need history and civics, finance and business education. They need the chance to explore careers and trades. All of New Hampshire's children deserve the chance to thrive in the one place that takes them all and doesn't discriminate – your neighborhood public school. We are asking for your support in the state budget so we can do our jobs properly to educate the citizens of tomorrow no matter what city or town we are in.



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Katherine Goodwin <kgoodwin@kiminicholscenter.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 6:34 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Senate Budget Hearing

The day has long gone by where the profession of DSP is just a warm, fuzzy, caring heart that is going to go to heaven for caring for someone with a disability. We need to be paid a liveable wage for many reasons. We are not just day care providers. At some point, the state will need to recognize this. Every DSP is expected to be councilors, behaviorists, companions, caretakers, nurses, CNAs, house cleaners, personal shoppers; activity directors, caretakers, documentation writers, life coach and organizers, and drivers as an all encompassing position called Direct Support Professionals. And yes, I have been writing to Governor Sununu about this as no one at state level would do this job for \$15.50, and I am going to guess, neither would you, and if they do, or you do, you really wouldn't want to do it and not be able to pay your bills.

The amount of \$15.50 is the state cap on hourly rate for the staff person(s) that are working with your son or daughter. Because it is not a livable wage, staff are working 2 full time jobs in order to make ends meet. This is often the reason that med errors are occurring, burnout is real and turnover becomes inevitable as staff are mentally and physically exhausted. Sometimes they can get time and a half at another job so they call out and/or move on. People are tired. Families are tired. This is why we need to make a good liveable wage for our staff and oversight, and for more availability for group homes, foster homes, respite care and more funding to get the help needed. We want to provide your loved one with better, consistent, committed staff and living situations that are honest, trustworthy and caring.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Lindy Head <lpollock@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 6:40 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2

Hello Ms. Martone,

My name is Linda Head and I live in Hopkinton. I'm writing to express my objection to HB2 if it contains language from HB544, prohibiting implicit bias training and teaching about racism and sexism in our schools. If we are ever to make significant progress on dismantling racism in this country, we have to be able to talk about the nature of the problem, and the restrictions included in the proposed budget muzzle us.

I am also concerned about the budget's tax cuts for the wealthy and the lack of adequate support for community services and programs.

Thank you for listening.

Linda Head

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Lindsey Collins <lindseyellisoncollins@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 6:52 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Testimony

Hello,

My name is Lindsey Collins and I'm from Plymouth, NH. I oppose the Divisive Concepts Bill in HB 2. The state has no business restricting important conversations about race, gender or antisemitism. These conversations are essential to building a multiracial democracy. I am a proud Jewish mother to a kindergartner and I was disgusting by Dawn Johnson, the Laconia school board member, who on multiple occasions promoted antisemitism and white supremacy on her own social media with no repercussions. How is it going to benefit our children if we allow racism, white supremacy and hate to be upheld in our schools? I also hold an MA in history and was born and raised in the shadow of the chains of slavery in Richmond, VA. 1619 is not just a year to me it is the truth. What you are essentially proposing is the same as the VA Textbook commission and the Daughter's of the Confederacy promoted in VA, the Lost Cause False Historical Narrative of the Civil War. It is a lie. Ask yourselves, who does this protect? It protects racism and white supremacy not marginalized children who need our support the most. That is why I oppose. Thank you, Lindsey Collins

Sent from my iPhone

## Debra Martone

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**From:** John Cross <jc938272@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 7:03 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; Kevin Avard  
**Subject:** Please oppose HB1 and HB2

PLEASE OPPOSE HB1 and HB2. The proposed budget reduces funding for education by \$90 million and reduces revenue sharing with the towns by \$40 million. Both of these cuts to important town revenue must be offset by increasing property taxes, which are already extremely high in my town of Brookline, and other towns across the state. The budget also includes cuts to health care clinics that are associated with, or in the same building as, a reproductive health care clinic. New Hampshire residents need our state budget to better fund our public schools and reproductive health clinics.

Regarding school funding, "[Commentary: Fair school funding must be part of state budget](#)", from the New Hampshire Bulletin, is a good, brief discussion.

And "[N.H. ranks dead last in the nation for state education funding](#)", from the Concord Monitor, discusses the inequity that results from school funding primarily based on property taxes.

*"This report underscores what last year's commission on school funding found: **that our current school funding formula remains inequitable**," said Brian Hawkins, director of government relations at NEA-NH. "When the state provides such little aid to communities, it makes it far more difficult for those districts with lower-than-average property values to raise the necessary funds to provide an adequate education for our kids."*

John Cross  
Brookline, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Linda LaFleur <ltlafleur@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 7:08 PM  
**To:** John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1 & HB2 OPPOSE Londonderry

I respectfully ask you to:

1. Remove school voucher language from the budget. Vouchers are a horrible idea!
2. Remove HB544 language (attempts to censor and limit teaching about racism, sexism, and implicit bias) from budget. This violates our right to free speech.

Both of the above are NOT the New Hampshire way.

Linda LaFleur  
20 Priscilla Lane  
Londonderry, NH 03053

Sent from my iPad

Thank you for letting me testify. My name is Linda Mattlage and I live in Concord.

I am here because I strongly oppose the inclusion of SB130 in HB2. Rather than giving this committee the opportunity to do due diligence on this bill, it has been rolled into the budget, eliminating the usual transparency that a fiscal evaluation provides. Rep. Myler spoke in greater detail about this. This bill has many problems, some of which have already be addressed. I will speak to one issue that has not been mentioned..

Now, in the middle of a pandemic, is not the time to take on the major change of vouchers, also known as Educational Freedom Accounts. School districts are already grappling with losing students due to the pandemic, demographic changes and the doubling of charter school seats that we'll see shortly due to the federal grant Gov. Sununu accepted. This grant requires New Hampshire to double the number of charter school seats in the state (by expanding some existing charter schools and adding some new ones). It is estimated that doing this will cost the state between \$57 million and \$104 million in the first ten years. If people are concerned about kids not getting what they need in public school, aren't charter schools created for that reason? We should see how the expansion of charter schools works before spending additional state funds for a whole new parallel structure and funding system.

I urge you to remove the language of SB130 from the budget. Thank you.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Joy Kubit <joykubit@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 7:23 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1 and HB2

Debra, please register my opposition and share with committee members. I am opposed to both HBS #1 and 2. My principle concern in NH is support for green energy. I have children and grandchildren who will be dealing with our inaction regarding the climate for most of their lives. Our state can do so much more to promote green businesses, adding good paying jobs in NH. Also, important for the future is providing the best public school opportunities for children here in our state. I am a voter in New London, NH. Thank you, Joy Kubit

Sent from my iPad

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Annie Rettew <abrettew@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 7:28 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Bob.guida@leg.state.nh.us; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** A NH Voter opposing the budget in regard to education aid

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Please consider this regarding the proposed budget:

Communities across New Hampshire will lose nearly \$90 million in state education aid next year, unless that \$90M is added to the budget.

The communities that would need to resort to the largest property tax increases to make up for this gap if the budget does not include the funding are the very ones that are least able to bear them.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Annie**

Annie Rettew, RN  
603-651-7000



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Charles Townsend <chucktownsend@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 7:32 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Chuck Townsend  
**Subject:** Testimony for Hearing on HB 2

Dear Debra Martone —

I will be unable to give live testimony during the budget hearings tomorrow. Please print and distribute the following testimony to budget committee members for their consideration during and after the hearing.

Thank you for the help.  
Chuck Townsend

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Hello. I am Charles Townsend from Canaan, New Hampshire, and I want to provide my testimony **against** including voucher language in the N.H. budget.

Canaan is a property-poor town — and as a result we have one of the very highest tax rates in our state. When you are considering changes to improve HB 1 and HB 2, please work to remove the school voucher language. Our public schools are already under-funded and they face a \$90M decline in state funding in the current budget. That means additional money our town will have to raise by increasing taxes.

A voucher option will be of little value in our town, where there are few practical private school options. A family trying to use a voucher is likely to have any school scholarship aid reduced by the amount of voucher money available, so the program is likely to transfer money from public to private education without any real saving to parents.

We have good public schools in Canaan, despite our financial struggles. Please help parents, schools and taxpayers in Canaan and other property-poor towns avoid the additional burden of funding a voucher system for the big cities.

Chuck Townsend

Charles Townsend  
Retired Rep. - Grafton 11  
[chucktownsend@icloud.com](mailto:chucktownsend@icloud.com)  
49 Hall Road  
Canaan, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Jim Howard <jimh.nh@rcn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 7:41 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove HB544 PLEASE

Dear Senator,

I believe that this bill (HB544) which is in HB 2 would put a huge black mark on our state, restricts free speech to even discuss race in schools, colleges, criminal justice systems, etc.

I am appalled that this bill (HB544) has been incorporated into the budget. I am very opposed, therefore, to passing HB2 as it exists today.

Thank you,

Nelson Howard  
PEMBROKE

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Katherine Stebbins Remesch <katherinestebbins@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 7:44 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB2

Dear Senate Members,

I oppose this bill due to the amendment restricting so-called "divisive concepts". This is purely an attempt by white supremacists to limit our ability to address systemic racism.

Thank you,  
Katherine Remesch  
Hollis NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Annie Rettew <abrettew@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 7:56 PM  
**To:** Erin Hennessey; Chuck Morse; Lou D'Allesandro; Gary Daniels; Cindy Rosenwald; Bob.guida@leg.state.nh.us; John Reagan  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove language of HB544 from budget-from a NH voter

Please place my comments on the record.

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Please strike the language regarding the censoring of teaching implicit bias, and historical racism and sexism from the budget. This is dangerous stuff. We cannot ignore history and we must learn from it.

I have been recently monitoring the letters to the editor in The Concord Monitor and have seen only three letters in support of that bill/language in the budget and multiple letters daily opposing it. It is truly frightening that this revisionist history/ignoring the past has any supporters. It will hurt our state and our country.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Annie**

Annie Rettew, RN  
603-651-7000

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Sarah Porter <sarahmporter10@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:03 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Fwd: Opposition to HB544 language in HB2

I am emailing to strongly express my opposition to the HB544 language included in HB2. This policy is unacceptable, does not serve the communities of New Hampshire, and in fact actively prevents the necessary education and training and conversations that is vital to our schools, and institutions. It must be removed entirely from the budget in all shapes and forms.

Please listen to the outrage that is being clearly expressed from so many over this bad and potentially damaging policy.

Sarah Porter, Sullivan County

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Annie Rettew <abrettew@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:06 PM  
**To:** Erin Hennessey; John Reagan; Bob.guida@leg.state.nh.us; Lou D'Allesandro; Gary Daniels; Cindy Rosenwald; Chuck Morse  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Fully fund DHHS-A NH Voter opposing the budget

Please put my comments on the record.

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

Stop the \$50 million in backend budget cuts to DHHS and fill the 266 currently being held vacant.

Well before COVID, New Hampshire residents were already facing a multitude of crises related to health and human services. Things have only gotten worse. Now is not the time to be cutting funding for those who need it most.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Annie**

Annie Rettew, RN  
603-651-7000



Ascentria In-Home Care  
261 Sheep Davis Road, Suite A-11 Concord, NH 03301  
603.224.3010 [ascentria.org/in-homecare](http://ascentria.org/in-homecare)  
*Formerly Lutheran Social Services of New England*

**Testimony on HB 1  
May 4, 2021**

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Amy Moore. I am the Director of Ascentria In-Home Care, which provides personal care services for over 400 people through CFI—the Choices for Independence Program. I also serve on the board of the Home Care, Hospice and Palliative Care Alliance of New Hampshire.

Thousands of Granite Staters depend on the CFI program. These are medically vulnerable individuals ages 18 to 100 who qualify for nursing homes, but who choose to remain in their own homes. Home and community based care costs a fraction of what a nursing home does. Unfortunately, these programs have been underfunded for over a decade---so badly that New Hampshire ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the amount of Medicaid funding it spends on home and community-based care.

Currently CFI is failing our most vulnerable citizens. Rates are so low that providers cannot hire the workers they need to care for these individuals. CFI rates do not cover the full cost of training, supervision, caregiving, background checks, TB tests, Workers' Compensation, health benefits, payroll taxes, communications or billing. Individuals can go to work at Market Basket, McDonalds or Walmart and receive a much higher wage than they would currently receive working for a CFI program. My 13 year old daughter can make more babysitting for our next door neighbor. We hail these caregivers, these healthcare workers as heroes during this pandemic and yet we won't pay them a livable wage.

Providers and advocates have been warning of this crisis for years. As someone who spent many years out in the field I can tell you that I have never seen anything like this. A 90 year old woman in Campton who fell a few months ago and was on the floor for 14 hours before someone found her. A 62 year old veteran in Tilton who is not getting showers on a regular basis---so much so that it is affecting his health. A 39 year old woman in Lebanon with Cerebral Palsy who is supposed to receive 30 hours a week of care but is only receiving 12; she has intentionally overdosed twice in the last two months. I could go on but the list is too long.

Based on DHHS data, the entire CFI appropriation is rarely spent. This is not because the budget is too large, it's because agencies can't provide the services. Funds are being left on the table that could enhance rates and eliminate gaps in care. We're not asking you to put more money in the budget---we're asking you to direct the Department to put the money that is there into rate increases.

Granite Staters who need long- term care should be able to remain in their homes and community and not be subject to unwanted and unnecessary institutionalization. New Hampshire is already the second oldest state in the country and our population continues to age. We must strengthen our home and community-based care system NOW.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Trudy Mott-Smith <wmottsm@worldpath.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:07 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 and HB 2

Good Morning, Members of the Senate Finance Committee and Ms. Martone

I am not able to testify in person, but have signed in opposition to HB 1 and HB 2 for several reasons, primary among them:

- (1) Inadequate funding for public education:  
the NEA finds that NH has the lowest state contribution to public education and the highest concentration of local money going to public education; this budget casts impossible financing burdens on localities.
- (2) The lack of significant contribution to the Affordable Housing Fund; the lack of affordable housing in the State deprives workers of other necessities because they must pay so much for housing and discourages businesses from locating in NH.
- (3) The importation into the bill of the budget-irrelevant language of HB544 (prohibiting the funding of programs which include "divisive concepts"); the language prohibits the police training recommended by the LEACT Commission and necessary classroom discussions of contemporary social problems.

Sincerely,  
Wiltrud R. Mott-Smith  
91 Kenney Road  
Loudon, NH 03307  
603-267-7566



## Debra Martone

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**From:** tenthwife@myfairpoint.net  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:10 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1, HB2

Dear Finance Committee Members:

The House of Representatives had an opportunity to use revenue to undo the downshifting past years. Instead, they chose to provide tax decreases to large companies and corporations, decrease room and meals tax and work to get rid of the interest and dividends tax. Decreasing these taxes not only puts the Federal Covid funds in jeopardy, this revenue could have been used to decrease property taxes for everyone – including businesses. They also chose to take away funds from public education and add bills (SB30 and HB544) to the budget when they should have been tabled. As a final unnecessary hit on NH residents, they are taking 100 million in State and Federal funds out of the Dept. of Health and Human Services with no thought of consequences. The House budget is against public education, property tax payers who aren't wealthy, the free discussion of ideas and proper management that determines cuts through review of effectiveness. In the past, legislators worked together to make New Hampshire #1 in quality of life, # 1 in best place to raise a child, #3 in public education. This budget works against all the previous progress in making NH a great state.

You have the ability to make this budget one that makes NH a better state- please take the necessary steps to undo the harm done by the House of Representatives.

Mary Anne Broshek  
Andover, NH  
mabandsadie@gmail.com

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Bruce Berk <bruce.berk.nh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:15 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NH resident who opposes HB 1 and HB 2: against 90 million shortfall and remnants of HB 544

Ms. Martone,

Good evening and thank you for your service.

Budgets are complicated, but some points from the House budget need to be amended or deleted.

The "divisive language" of discredited HB 544 should be deleted from the budget bill. As your fellow senators wrote in an Op-Ed, *"What this actually means is that discussions about systemic racism, gender inequality and other important aspects of our country's history will be muzzled under the guise of neutrality and equality. But this is doublespeak. This bill perpetuates and codifies a culture of silence, inaction, unequal treatment and oppression and creates even more division in our state."*

As a Pittsfield resident, I should not need to tell you the town's desperate tax situation, and I testified against the school voucher bill when introduced in the House. Fixed costs will always be fixed costs and students will suffer even further. This issue is further compounded by the budget shortfall for schools this year. As you know estimates run as high as 90 million dollars. NH School Funding Fairness Project states poorer communities could see 2 per 1000 of home value or higher fill the gap. This funding should be restored.

Bruce Berk  
Pittsfield

525 Clinton Street  
Bow, NH 03304  
Voice: 603-228-2830  
Fax: 603-228-2464



61 Elm Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
Voice: 802-229-0002  
Fax: 802-223-2336

May 4, 2021

Senator Gary Daniels, Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
State House Rm Senate Chamber  
107 N. Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Email: [Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us); [John.Reagan111@gmail.com](mailto:John.Reagan111@gmail.com);  
[Lou.Dallesandro@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Lou.Dallesandro@leg.state.nh.us); [Chuck.Morse@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Chuck.Morse@leg.state.nh.us); [Bob.Giuda@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Bob.Giuda@leg.state.nh.us);  
[Cindy.Rosenwald@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Cindy.Rosenwald@leg.state.nh.us); [Erin.Hennessey@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Erin.Hennessey@leg.state.nh.us);  
[debra.martone@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:debra.martone@leg.state.nh.us)

RE: HB 1 and HB 2

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for your continued support of community health centers and their patients. Bi-State Primary Care Association and our members respectfully request the Senate Finance Committee overcome critical gaps in the House budget proposal by providing the necessary investments in the NH State Loan Repayment Program, Family Planning Program, Primary Care Contracts, and Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit, and addressing harmful language related to the propagation of divisive concepts.

Bi-State Primary Care Association is a non-profit organization that works to expand access to primary and preventive care for all New Hampshire residents with a special emphasis on the medically underserved. Bi-State also represents 14 New Hampshire community health centers, which are located in areas of the state with limited access to health care services. New Hampshire's community health centers are non-profit organizations that provide integrated substance use disorder treatment, behavioral health, primary care, and oral health services to nearly 120,000 patients, including 1 in 5 of *all* Granite Staters enrolled in the Medicaid program.

**1. Investment in the State Loan Repayment Program (7965 Rural Health and Primary Care)**

The State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) provides partial payment towards educational loans of health care professionals in exchange for a commitment to serve in a medically underserved area. The Program is an invaluable recruitment tool for community health centers, community mental health centers, critical access hospitals, and other community-based health care providers. In 2019, the legislature and Governor overwhelmingly supported a non-lapsing \$6.5 million

appropriation to the State Loan Repayment Program because of the health care workforce shortage, which has only grown because of the pandemic. The funds were not available for DHHS to encumber until November 2019 because the budget did not become law until late September 2019. In April 2020, \$4 million was removed from the State Loan Repayment Program to pay for the State's COVID response. Additionally, the Division of Public Health could not send any SLRP contracts through the Governor and Council process because of the focus on the pandemic.

After the legislature increased support to the SLRP, DHHS worked with health care organizations to determine how to maximize the additional funding and address the health care needs of Granite State residents. The priorities identified included expanding the program to private practice dentists, behavioral health staff, and registered nurses. This funding is more critical than ever to help health care organizations address the health care workforce shortage facing our state. It is our current understanding that DHHS can only encumber the amount listed in 7965 Rural Health and Primary Care, line 103, which is approximately \$766,783 in SFY 2022 and SFY 2023. There should be approximately \$5.1 million left from the 2019 appropriation in that budget line and we ask the Senate to ensure that funding is available in order to expand access to SLRP as you intended.

## **2. Family Planning Contracts and Title X (5530 Family Planning Program)**

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services contracts with 10 health care organizations for the provision of family planning services, including community health centers. This program uses a combination of TANF, Title X, and state general funds to pay for reproductive health care services. These contracts provide patients access to STD and HIV counseling and testing, health education materials, and sterilization services to low-income women, men, and adolescents in need of family planning and reproductive health services.

During the last budget season, there were several changes at the federal level that necessitated the inclusion of additional general funds to prevent a disruption of family planning services. Those restrictions remain in effect, and DHHS testified on March 10<sup>th</sup> that it may take up to a year to restore the Title X funding at the federal level. Community health centers are ineligible to receive Title X funding because of those restrictions. It is difficult for community health centers to provide services without compensation, but it is especially difficult during the pandemic because their patient revenue is substantially lower than their pre-pandemic revenue. As DHHS testified to in the House and before your committee, the general funds currently included in HB 2 are insufficient to cover the contractors who cannot participate in the federal Title X program. We ask that \$1.2 million be added to this program to ensure access to care for the 17,000 Granite Staters who need these services and the providers that serve them.

Additionally, the House amended HB 2 to include Section 34 Reproductive Health Facilities on page 13 of the bill. This language mirrors parts of the problematic language included at the federal level, including requiring the physical separation of health care services, making the provision of these services by New Hampshire's family planning providers impossible. Lines 21 and 22 also prohibit a family planning grantee from entering into a contract with a reproductive health facility. Twelve of New Hampshire's community health centers are federally qualified health centers. All federally qualified health centers, including those currently participating in the State's Family Planning Program, have an obligation to contract with health care providers in

their area for services that FQHC cannot provide, which is contrary to the language in section 34. As a result, section 34 of HB 2 would limit the providers able to participate in the State's family planning program. According to the DHHS website, as of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, only seven organizations replied to the State's new Family Planning RFP, which is down from 10 participants. The State cannot afford to limit the eligible providers any further.

### **3. Primary Care Contracts (5190 Maternal and Child Health)**

The primary care contracts within the Division of Public Health help health centers increase access to health care services and ensure quality outcomes in the communities they serve. Community health centers utilize these funds to deliver primary and preventative care to low-income and underinsured pregnant women, newborns, adolescents, and elderly individuals and to treat acute and chronic health conditions like depression, diabetes, coronary artery disease, asthma, and chronic oral health infections. These dollars are an investment for patients to improve their own clinical outcomes and avoid more costly and serious health issues in the future.

Patients who benefit from the primary care contracts often experience barriers to accessing health care. The services and work funded by the primary care contracts are not paid for by Medicaid, nor are they redundant to any state funding or payments the health centers receive from commercial insurance or other grants. The primary care contracts require the health centers to meet quality measures to ensure that these services are saving the state money and represent a good investment. A reduction to primary care contract funds would increase barriers to care for patients whose health and wellness are reliant on these services, and therefore, we ask that these contracts be level funded.

### **4. Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit**

Lack of access to oral health care is devastating to a person's overall health, leading to a host of problems with the heart and other organs; negatively impacting a patient's health and employability related to appearance and pain management issues, and - as more published evidence is showing us - exacerbating the substance use and opioid crises across the nation.<sup>1</sup> What is most tragic, and where the solution lies, is that these irreversible and painful oral health complications could have been avoided with regular prophylaxis and restorative care.

Currently, New Hampshire's Medicaid adult dental benefit is limited to treating infection and severe pain, leaving the underlying oral health problems to go unaddressed and gradually worsen. Expanding the adult Medicaid dental benefit to include preventive services will allow these patients to get their oral health needs on track, which plays a big role in their mental health and overall quality of life. A growing body of research demonstrates that providing Medicaid dental health coverage to parents has a positive impact on children on Medicaid and CHIP receiving recommended dental care. The "spillover effects" of Medicaid adult dental service expansions are shown to benefit the entire family.<sup>2</sup> As discussed in the workgroup on the adult

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<sup>1</sup> "Opioid Crisis." [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org), [www.ada.org/en/advocacy/advocacy-issues/opioid-crisis](http://www.ada.org/en/advocacy/advocacy-issues/opioid-crisis).

<sup>2</sup> "Research Update: A Spotlight on Children's Oral Health." Center for Children and Families, 10 May 2019, [ccf.georgetown.edu/2019/05/10/research-update-a-spotlight-on-childrens-oral-health/](http://ccf.georgetown.edu/2019/05/10/research-update-a-spotlight-on-childrens-oral-health/). Accessed 16 Oct. 2019.

Medicaid dental benefit, it is critical to establish appropriate capitated rates that incentivize dentists throughout the state to open their doors for Medicaid patients. Community health centers cannot do it alone. We are heartened to see that New Hampshire is moving in the right direction, with surging engagement and collaboration among health providers, government agencies, and the larger community to “put the mouth back in the body.”

##### **5. Harmful language related to the propagation of divisive concepts**

Bi-State and our members ask that Section 330 of HB 2 be removed from the bill. As you know, this section will ban dissemination of certain “divisive concepts,” like unconscious bias related to sex and race that are critical to addressing public health disparities across New Hampshire. This language, if put into statute, could prohibit community health centers from providing training on race, equity, and sexual harassment, which starkly conflicts with their federal obligations to provide these trainings. Community health centers have dozens of contracts with the State of New Hampshire and in some cases, are the only providers of health care services in the area to offer the services required by the state contracts, particularly in the North Country. If passed, section 330 will place health centers in the position of choosing between complying with federal regulations or contracting with the State of New Hampshire for services needed by Granite Staters.

The pandemic demonstrated that equitable access to care does not exist in our country and New Hampshire is not immune to the issue. Community health center patients of color were and continue to be disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Section 330 will eliminate the progress we made in cultivating an environment where health center patients and staff feel safe to come into the office and encouraged to thrive. We respectfully request this language be removed from HB 2.

We are grateful for all of your hard work this session and for the opportunity to participate in the Senate hearings remotely. We look forward to working together to strengthen our health care system as we look ahead to life after the pandemic. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kristine E. Stoddard, Esq.  
Director of NH Public Policy  
Office: 603-228-2830, ext. 113  
Cell: 480-794-023  
[kstoddard@bistatepca.org](mailto:kstoddard@bistatepca.org)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Marjorie Pim <marjpim@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:15 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 and HB 2

Regarding legislation that limits the freedom of speech of NH educators and students: I oppose 2021 NH HB 1 and HB 2 if they include any language similar to that of HB 544 which prohibits NH educators from discussing, leading discussions about, or providing educational content about "divisive" issues or topics that could make someone uncomfortable. Nothing of the sort should be allowed to impinge on the flow of free speech and open discussion of ideas and issues in our classrooms.

Thank you for your good work,  
Marjorie Pim  
Epping, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** aldenla8286@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:22 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove the language of HB 544 in its entirety from HB 2!

Greetings to the NH Finance Committee,

I am writing today to urge you to take HB 544's language out of the budget, which would ban "divisive concepts" from New Hampshire learning and training. It is an unconstitutional violation of the freedom of speech under the First Amendment. Banning all diversity training and discussions would set back progress in addressing system issues, halting efforts that make New Hampshire a more equitable and inclusive place to live and work.

This bill gives New Hampshire an extreme perception of racism encouraging a censorship of racial bias.

This bill, if passed would be economically bad for NH. If this becomes known publicly it would greatly impact the willingness of individuals and businesses who would support our various industries such as tourism, small businesses, public higher education, etc.

The first step would be for you to strike this provision from HB2 and I urgently request that you consider removing this language in its entirety.

Thank you for your consideration!

*Laurie*



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Nancy Wightman <nwlaststraw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:23 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB2

Please take the HB 544 section out of the budget. It is embarrassing that our state would use censorship to deny the existence of racism and to put our Governor in this ridiculous position.

Nancy Wightman, Cornish.

Sent from my iPad

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Mike Sutherland <c.r.mike.sutherland@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:34 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Divisive Concepts Language in Budget

The language concerning divisive concepts taken from HB 544 is antithetical to our constitution and the freedoms which make the United States a truly great nation. It is antithetical to our State motto, "Live Free or Die", and it originates from national organizations, not from within New Hampshire. It does not represent the values of our community, and it should be removed, in its entirety, from the Budget bill.

Claude Sutherland  
823 Route 12A  
Plainfield, NH 03781

(During the last decade, I have served as a member of the School Board, Planning Board and Finance Committee in Plainfield, NH. I am also a former teacher of US history and government and of world history.)

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Kathy <mblair1@ne.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:37 PM  
**To:** John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; Gary Daniels  
**Subject:** Please remove HB 544 language from NH Budget bill 2

Dear NH Senators,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the language of HB 544 being included in Budget bill 2.

Number one, this language appears to contradict our First Amendment Right to Free Speech.

Number two, we live in the "Live Free or Die" State of New Hampshire.

How can this language possibly improve the situation and environment for New Hampshire residents and businesses trying to live, learn, compete and succeed in 2021 and beyond?

In order to thrive, New Hampshire will need to continue retaining and attracting a diverse population of young well-educated people to our state. This language will have the opposite effect.

Please remove this harmful and divisive HB 544 language from budget bill 2.

Thank you,

Kathryn Blair  
175 W Surry Rd  
Keene, NH 03431

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Ruth Perencevich <rperence@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:42 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** from a NH voter, please restore \$90M in education aid

New Hampshire communities will lose nearly \$90 million in state education aid next year, unless that \$90M is added to the budget. How can this be good for NH schools? How can this be acceptable?

These losses will compromise the ability of any public school to function successfully. These losses mean putting more debt on local property taxpayers, which is really hard on low income and property poor towns. How can this be fair?

Please Please Please do the right thing and fill the \$90 Million gap in NH education aid. This IS the right thing to do.

Thank you for your consideration. And I would like my comments to go on the record....

Ruth Perencevich, Concord

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Holly Gilbert <outlook\_D3442A8BC9A30C41@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:47 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove Chapter 10-C

I strongly oppose Chapter 10-C and demand that it be removed in its entirety from HB2!

It is ludicrous that the "Live Free or Die" state is attempting to restrict free speech. It does not serve the people of this state, particularly people of color, to prevent education and discussion about systemic racism, which is clearly present in the country and this state and has been for hundreds of years. Improving the lives of all citizens of this state demand that we speak honestly and freely about our history and our differences so that we can move forward to a more just state and country for us all.

THIS MUST BE REMOVED FROM HB2 IN IT'S ENTIRETY!

Holly Gilbert

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Debra Martone

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**From:** jeanne timmons <hazel22\_s@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:48 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 544 within HB 2

Hello Members of the Finance Committee:

I write to you with a great sense of alarm and urgency about HB 544 and its inclusion in HB 2. The idea of prohibiting the discussion of topics the authors deem "divisive" is abhorrent.

I believe racism and sexism (and many other things) exist in both our nation and our state. Preventing anyone from discussing these topics means no one can learn about them or learn FROM them; it means we wouldn't be able to improve upon and widen our understanding of the world around us; it means we wouldn't be able to try to make our state a more inclusive and diverse environment.

It is censorship and thought-police written into law.

This is not ok.

I write to you to demand that all language related to HB 544 be removed from HB 2. No part of it should be in the bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Timmons  
251 N. Main St.  
Tilton, NH 03276

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Sue Marcotte-Jenkins <outlook\_9EA286E74FC3D538@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:54 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove the HB544 language in HB2 in its entirety

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am sickened by the prospects of HB544 becoming law in NH. Besides its racist roots and the unconstitutional gag on free speech that it would impose, I'm troubled by the negative impact it would have on NH's reputation and economy. Please remove its language from HB2 and save our state from the embarrassment it would cause. More importantly, please support NH students' learning truth vs their indoctrination to a view of the world that is not grounded in historical facts.

Sincerely

Susan Marcotte-Jenkins  
11 Hope Lane  
Bow, NH 03304

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

May 3, 2013  
New Hampshire State Senate  
Committee on Finance  
State House-State Chamber  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Janet Perkins-Howland and I write to offer my written testimony in opposition to provisions of HB 544 included in HB 2.

I have spent my entire career as an obstetrician-gynecologist (OB/GYN) working in New Hampshire. It has been a privilege to serve my patients and my hospital since the late 1990s, most recently as Director of Perinatal Optimization and simulation training at Wentworth Douglass Hospital where I work closely with a comprehensive quality and safety team of medical professionals to formulate a safe plan of care for every pregnant patient. Through this work our team has developed protocols and policies for women with substance use disorder, mental health issues, and other high risk medical conditions. We have also worked to bring equity into our operations in a systematic way.

Several years ago, alarming statistics were published about racial disparities in maternal care in the United States, revealing the fact that women of color are more than three times more likely to die in childbirth, among other poor outcomes. Even when statistics are adjusted for income, education, and insurance status, projected outcomes for people of color are always worse. What is going on? Medical research indicates that structural racism has had a substantial role in shaping the social determinants of health and the health profile of our patients.

Enter, training and education about racial disparities in health care. Doing a deep dive into how we got where we are today means we can identify issues, strategize a response, and move forward to provide equitable care to all. This is not an ideological or political argument, it's about the fundamental right to safe care that we should all believe in. As an example of what I am talking about, we have recently examined our use of the vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC) risk calculator tool, which often dissuades women of color from attempting a VBAC since their calculated success rate based on their race is much lower than a white woman. This in turn puts them at higher risk for surgical complications. Not long ago, a woman of color named Torrie came into my office. When we calculated her chances of successful vaginal delivery as a white woman, she was given a figure of 60%. When she was put in the calculator as Black, it went down to 40%. This is a clear example of potential provider implicit bias and systemic racism. The intent of the calculator and the health care provider is not racist, but the impact certainly is.

Blame and fault-finding are not helpful to address these issues, but coming to grips with the inequities and disparities based on race and sex should be an element of our plan of care. Racial and gender disparities exist in the delivery of healthcare, and it's imperative to acknowledge and fix these inequities in the most comprehensive ways possible. This includes recognition of structural racism and implicit bias. This is not to blame any particular individual but to move forward to dismantling the racist scaffolding which has caused the inequities in healthcare.



I am deeply concerned that passage of HB544 would effectively suspend inquiry and dialogue to improve patient outcomes based on race or sex.

A focus on identifying structural racism offers a concrete approach towards advancing health equity and improving population health. HB 544 refers to race or sex stereotyping as a divisive concept, however recognizing racial or sexist biases is important as a first step in ensuring the very best health outcomes for our patients. Nurses and doctors need to be aware of the ways that racism becomes a determinant of health. Multiple studies have quantified this finding, for which I provide the references below. The last one may be of particular interest to you:

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMms2004740>

HB 544 would be bad for us as medical providers since it is ultimately the people we serve, our patients, who would suffer the consequences of subjugating education and initiatives meant to increase equity and quality. It is counterintuitive to our mission to prevent harm and care for the unwell.

For these reasons, I ask for you to oppose the provisions of HB 544 included in HB 2. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony for the Finance Committee's consideration as you review HB 2.

**References:**

Bailey, Z, et al, America: Equity and Equality in Health 3, Structural racism and health inequities in the USA: evidence and interventions, [www.thelancet.com](http://www.thelancet.com), Vol 389, April 8,2017

Hall, W, et al, Implicit Racial/Ethnic Bias Among Health Care Professionals and Its Influence on Health Care Outcomes: A Systematic Review, *American Journal of Public Health*, December 2015, Vol 105, No.12

Paradies, Y, et al, Racism as a Determinant of Health: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis, *PLOS ONE*/DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0138511, September 23, 2015

Vias, D,et al: Hidden in Plain Sight-Reconsidering the Use of Race Correction in Clinical Algorithms, *NEJM*, August 27, 2020

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Dave Shinnlinger <daveshinnlinger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:55 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposed to Hb 2

It is simply reckless to pursue school vouchers without a financial impact statement. All the students who currently attend private and parochial schools will create a giant vacuum of taxpayer dollars from our local public schools where over 90% of our states children go to school. The local taxpayers will have to come up with more money or the vast majority of our kids will have to do without. Please vote down any voucher bill for these reasons.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dave Shinnlinger

Sent from my iPhone

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Susan Hatem <susanh8m@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:56 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Drop HB544!

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I implore you to remove HB 544 in its entirety from HB 2. I am appalled that it has gained any momentum in our state whatsoever.

As a NH native who has had the good fortune to travel abroad, work in a third world country, and live in three other states before returning home to work and raise my family, I know firsthand the value of diverse perspectives and interpretations of the human experience. This bill encourages ignorance. It is bad for our children, our state, and our country.

Please remove HB 544 from the budget bill.

Susan Hatem  
[susanh8m@gmail.com](mailto:susanh8m@gmail.com)  
23 Woodhill Road, Bow, NH 03304

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Melissa Wallace <wallace\_melissa@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:02 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB2 opposition

Finance Committee Member:

I am writing as an (almost lifelong) resident in the State of New Hampshire, the spouse of a school teacher, and a licensed psychologist providing short and long-term mental health care to our deserving residents.

I am writing to ask that you VOTE TO REMOVE from the current budget bill (HB2) the language from HB544 (relative to the prohibition on the propagation of divisive concepts).

The language from HB544 is very disturbing because it would prevent discussion of real and ongoing problems in our society, including racism and sexism.

While as a society, we have made progress toward greater equality and freedom for all our citizens, there is extensive research in my field that supports the existence of implicit racial bias. Banning training on concepts like implicit bias does not erase these biases, it only serves to hide these realities and prevent us from making more progress.

In addition, it appears that the language of HB544 would act as a government limit on free speech that would not survive a court challenge. Therefore, it is likely that this bill would waste taxpayer money responding to such a court challenge, when taxpayer dollars could be better spent on improving mental health services for our many citizens who are dealing with an upsurge in troubling psychological symptoms related to COVID-19.

My professional code of ethics requires me to speak up to you on this issue since HB544's language violates the ethical principles of Justice and Respect for People's Rights and Dignity. If HB544 passes (embedded in HB2), it will limit access to important contributions of psychology (i.e., research showing that people possess unconscious bias against or toward others based on skin color). It will also interfere with my ability to help others try to work on their biases since HB544 will make it illegal for professionals like me to teach, do research, and provide clinical services related to acknowledging the racism or sexism that still exists in the U.S. It would also prevent professionals such as myself from helping people identify and work through the discomfort, guilt, or any form of psychological distress on account of their race or sex. Nor could we support individuals to understand and learn about stereotyping that happens in our society. Banning communication of social realities is certainly not the healthy or compassionate way forward.

Melissa M. Wallace

Melissa Wallace, Psy.D (she/her/hers)  
Licensed Psychologist  
Green House Group, PA  
250 Commercial Street, Suite 3004  
Manchester, NH 03101  
Phone: 603-668-3050, \*24  
Fax: 603-668-8666  
VSee ID: [wallace\\_melissa@comcast.net](mailto:wallace_melissa@comcast.net)  
Client link to VSee: <https://vsee.com/s/5e6e29e5a19ab>

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Ruth Perencevich <rperence@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:03 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Another NH voter opposed to SB130

Our public schools are working hard and doing a good job for the most part. BUT they are underfunded and they now face a possible \$90M loss in funds from the state. SB130 will take even more money from them.

School choice should come within the public schools; there are now, and can be even more, varied opportunities. SB130 will make it even harder for the public schools to do their job.

And SB130 contains no oversight as to how private or religious schools (separation of Church and State?!) operate relative to students or teachers. Public money should expect public oversight.

Finally, SB130 should not be part of the overall budget but it should be, as it normally has been, a stand-alone bill open to public consideration and legislative vote separate from the budget. Where is the democratic process in the NH Legislature these days?

Please allow my comments to go on the record and thank you for thoughtful consideration...Ruth Perencevich, Concord

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Stephen Beaupre <stephenbeaupre@tds.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:05 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB544 --- HB2

To all New Hampshire Senators on the Finance Committee:

The current HB2, formerly called HB544, needs to be stricken in its entirety from the budget. If enacted the outcome would be unconscionable for New Hampshire students, families, schools and affiliated businesses. Its entire intent is wrong and would be devastating if ever enacted.

Thank you for fully understanding and honestly deliberating HB2. Please vote to remove this bill whose intent is and outcome would be criminal.

Donna Beaupre', Meriden NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Marie Desrosiers <marie.desrosiers@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:11 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** OPPOSE HB1 and HB2

To the Senate Finance Committee Members,

I, Marie Desrosiers, resident of Salem, NH am writing to OPPOSE HB1 and HB2.

Cuts to education and DHHS services and prohibiting important teaching and discussion about racism and sexism as well as defunding family planning is extremely inhumane. It is not what God would have wanted for us. He says to love our neighbors as ourselves. This means taking care of our own. This means providing a quality of life which includes a decent education, supportive social services, and the right to make self-actualized and educated choices.

Sincerely,

Marie

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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Leave no footprints...take only pictures.

To the Senate Finance Committee,

Cities and towns throughout New Hampshire are losing funding from the State year-after-year, and these repeated gaps in funding are forcing dramatic rises in local property taxes as well as harmful cuts to essential services in our public schools. After more than two decades of inaction, many NH communities, students, and taxpayers are still being neglected by the State. With the recent conclusion of the Commission to Study School Funding, as well as the ongoing 2022–2023 biennial budget discussions, we find it critical to encourage action by the State regarding education funding disparities that harm our communities. As a group of local leaders, city councilors, and school board members, we urge the State to adopt the recommendations provided by the recently concluded Commission to Study School Funding.

Before concluding this past December, the Commission to Study School Funding worked for nearly a year under the direction of the NH General Court and Governor. This commission examined equitable and adequate solutions to the school funding crisis and drafted a proposal that would alleviate the burden on local taxpayers and help provide a stronger education to students. Some of the major findings indicated that New Hampshire's education funding system remains extremely regressive, utilizes inaccurate funding models, is providing fewer resources to needier communities, and produces decreased educational outcomes for less-advantaged communities. Most importantly of all, the commission determined that the responsibility for these faults is due to the lack of funding by the State. However, the proposals drafted by this commission are glaringly absent from Governor Sununu's budget, as well as the budget passed last week in the New Hampshire House. The Governor's own designee on the commission, Bill Ardinger, stated that because "New Hampshire's poorer communities are currently producing worse student outcomes than wealthier communities—[this] is a 9–1–1 call for a prompt emergency response." The Governor is not only ignoring his own designee and the calls for help across the state, but his budget proposal's reduction in the Educational Trust Fund by nearly \$109 million will add fuel to the flames that have engulfed education funding in New Hampshire. The House budget is certainly no better, as it dramatically reduces revenue sharing with cities and towns and cuts funding for an adequate education by about \$90 million.

The proposed budgets of the Governor and the House signal that the State is once again set to shirk its responsibilities and rely on local property taxpayers to shoulder the increases in education expenses. The prospective budgets from the Governor and House, if passed, will continue to downshift responsibilities and costs onto local taxpayers. The attempts by the State to "lower taxes" blatantly ignore the dramatic offsets that occur at the local level in order to balance these cuts. The State may choose to shave off a quarter percent on one tax and a half percent on another, but these trimmings will only provide the air of austerity, especially when local property taxes are forced to rise in response to anemic state funding. Over the past four years alone, local property taxes have increased by more than \$320 million due to offset costs by the State—disproportionately affecting already cash-strapped taxpayers. "Lower taxes" are a mere farce, and local taxpayers in cities and towns across New Hampshire cannot risk another two years of increased taxes and decreased funding.

For decades the State has neglected to perform its constitutional duty and better-fund public education, and in the more-than-20 years since the first Claremont lawsuit the education funding



landscape has only worsened. The decline in the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT)—developed in response to the Claremont cases—serves as the perfect example of “lower taxes” harming local taxpayers. This state-administered property tax was originally intended to offset rising local property tax rates, and many hoped that it would ensure New Hampshire had proper funding to provide a world-class education to all students. However, since its adoption in 1999 the rate for SWEPT has only dropped, not increased in-keeping with rising educational costs; falling from \$6.60 per \$1000 assessment to its current rate of \$1.92. The reason for this precipitous drop is tied to the stagnant fund balance for the state’s Education Trust Fund (used to pay education expenses across the state) which has remained unchanged at \$363 million since 2005. To put this in perspective, this fund would need to be set at \$500 million this year in order to keep up with inflation alone. It is unacceptable that lawmakers in Concord expect our public K-12 schools to adequately operate with the same amount of funding received in 2005, and it serves as only one of many possible examples of the State’s continued efforts to downshift costs onto local property taxpayers. The quality of education, the resources available to educators, and the opportunities for students now vary dramatically from community to community. Oftentimes the communities in the most need of resources and opportunities are those that struggle to raise funds through local property taxes, yet are forced year-in and year-out to raise taxes. Their teachers are being forced to pay for materials out of their own pockets, their class sizes are increasing, and their students aren’t getting their individualized needs met.

It is the strongly held belief of those signed below that the State needs to take dramatic efforts to reform the ways in which we fund public education—the bedrock of our state’s future. It is not too late though: the Senate has the opportunity to stand up for local taxpayers and the students of New Hampshire. We believe that the Senate, and eventually the Governor and House, should be taking direction from the Commission to Study School Funding while implementing these reforms. The recommendations from the Commission to Study School Funding were intended to be included in the 2022–2023 biennial budget, and amendments should be made to accommodate these recommendations before the budget’s final passage. Not only will these recommendations benefit thousands of students across the state, but they will result in a *true and complete* reduction in taxes for the vast majority of taxpayers in New Hampshire’s cities and towns.

Thank you,

Paul Grenier, *Mayor of Berlin*

Peter Higbee, *City Councilor, Berlin*

Lucie Remillard, *City Councilor, Berlin*

Ann Nolin, *School Board Chair, Berlin*

Jeanne Charest, *School Board Member, Berlin*

Nathan Morin, *School Board Member, Berlin*

Scott Losier, *School Board Member, Berlin*

Jon Morgan, *Select Board Member, Brentwood*

Jim Contois, *City Councilor, Claremont*

Joshua Lambert, *School Board Member, Claremont*

Fred Keach, *City Councilor, Concord*

Zandra Rice Hawkins, *City Councilor, Concord*

Jonathan Weinberg, *School Board Member, Concord*

Robert Carrier, *Mayor of Dover*

John O'Connor, *City Councilor, Dover*

Dennis Shanahan, *City Councilor, Dover*

Lindsey Williams, *City Councilor, Dover*

Amanda L. Russell, *School Board Chair, Dover*

Keith W. Holt, *School Board Vice Chair, Dover*

Carolyn J. Mebert, *School Board Member, Dover*

Zachary A. Koehler, *School Board Member, Dover*

Molly Cowan, *Select Board Member, Exeter*

Charlie Eicher, *School Board Vice-Chair, Jaffrey-Rindge Cooperative School District School*

John W. McCarthy, *School Board Member, Jaffrey-Rindge Cooperative School District*

Olivia Zink, *Interim Mayor & City Councilor, Franklin*

Mary J. Brown, *City Councilor, Franklin*

Jay Chandler, *City Council, Franklin*

Timothy Dow, *School Board Chair, Franklin*

Deborah Brown, *School Board Member, Franklin*

Cecile M. Cormier, *School Board Member, Franklin*

Michael Giacomo, *City Councilor, Keene*

Andrew Madison, *City Councilor, Keene*

Bobby Williams, *City Councilor, Keene*

Andrew J. Hosmer, *Mayor of Laconia*

Kristen van Bergen-Buteau, CPHQ, *School Board Member, Lancaster*

Devin R. Wilkie, *City Councilor, Lebanon*

Tara Hershberger, *School Board Member, Litchfield*

Leslie Want, *Board of School Committee Vice-Chair, Manchester*

Dr. Nicole Leapley, *Board of School Committee Member, Manchester*

Karen Soule, *Board of School Committee Member, Manchester*

Jim O'Connell, *Board of School Committee Member, Manchester*

Peter Perich, *Board of School Committee Member, Manchester*

Julie Turner, *Board of School Committee Member, Manchester*

Tim Josephson, *State Representative and School Board Vice-Chair, Mascoma Valley Regional District*

Kenneth Lee Dube, *Board of Selectmen, Milan*

Brandon Laws, *Alderman, Nashua*

Jan Schmidt, *State Representative and Alderman, Nashua*

Lori Wilshire, *Alderman, Nashua*

Heather Raymond, *Board of Education President, Nashua*

Toni Weinstein, *Town Council Chair, Newmarket*

Zachary Dumont, *Town Council Vice-Chair, Newmarket*

Johnathan Kiper, *Town Councilor, Newmarket*

Helen Sanders, *Town Councilor, Newmarket*

Sandy C. Goulet, *Board of Selectmen, Pembroke*

Michael DiTommaso, *Budget Committee Member, Raymond*

Caroline McCarley, *Mayor of Rochester*

Thomas Abbott, *City Councilor, Rochester*

Palana Belken, *City Councilor, Rochester*

Laura Hainey, *City Councilor, Rochester*

Donald J Hamann, *City Councilor, Rochester*

Peter Lachapelle, *City Councilor, Rochester*

Christopher Rice, *City Councilor, Rochester*

David Walker, *City Councilor, Rochester*

Anne Grassie, *School Board Member, Rochester*

Dana Hilliard, *Mayor of Somersworth*

Donald Austin, *City Councilor, Somersworth*

Nancie Cameron, *City Councilor, Somersworth*

Martin P. Dumont Sr., *City Councilor, Somersworth*

Matthew Gerding, *City Councilor, Somersworth*

Richard Michaud, *City Councilor, Somersworth*

Crystal Paradis, *City Councilor, Somersworth*

Kenneth Vincent, *State Representative and City Councilor, Somersworth*

David Witham, *City Councilor, Somersworth*

Gerri Cannon, *State Representative and School Board Member, Somersworth*

Coty Donohue, *School Board Member, Somersworth*

Maggie Larson, *School Board Member, Somersworth*

Sheena Robbins, *School Board Member, Wakefield*

Dave Holmander, *School Board Member, Whitefield*

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Kathy Cahill <kathyhigginscahill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:12 PM  
**To:** Lou D'Allesandro  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** thankyou for your hard work

I live in Concord and am quick to seek support for all our citizens who need the best education for all our children - that values public education and not using limited resources for religious schools, etc.

Also please find a way to fund Planned Parenthood in its health care work for all who need their expertise. Please wipe HB 544 off the face of the earth.

Kathy Cahill

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Erin R Sandler <ersandleremberley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:24 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** IMPORTANT RE: HB2

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I have very recently moved to Concord, where I also work. Prior to this, I was a constituent of Senator John Reagan when I lived in Northwood. I was deeply disturbed to hear that the language of HB544 was embedded into the House budget bill, HB2, which I understand you will be discussing tomorrow. A ban on education about systemic racism and sexism is an infringement on the right to free speech and does a great disservice to our youth and our communities by withholding information from them. We cannot confront and address racism and sexism if we cannot talk about them. These are not made up phenomena. Statistics show us that systemic sexism and racism are real and unique from other forms of oppression. This is easy to find by an internet search for reputable sources. Here is one such source: <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/2020/06/18/12-charts-racial-disparities-persist-across-wealth-health-and-beyond/3201129001/>

As the link will demonstrate for you, people in America experience significant race-based disparities in wealth, health, incarceration, and many other important areas. Black people make up only 13% of our country's population, whereas white folks make up 61% of the population, and yet the number of black people who are incarcerated *outnumber* the number of incarcerated white people. How can this be?!

As I am sure Senator Reagan will recall from when I wrote to him just a few months ago, I have been very disturbed by the racist and anti-semitic statements and messaging from certain Members of the House as well as the lack of vocal and active opposition to their stances by many of our House and Senate Members. Those events along with the inclusion of HB544 in a budget bill have clarified for me that there is an agenda to uphold and maintain white supremacy in New Hampshire. I hope I can count on your support to stand against white supremacy in all its forms and with that to stand against HB2 with the included language of HB544. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Erin R. Sandler, Psy.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
pronouns: she, her, hers

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to including HB 544 into HB 2 as it relates to the teaching of "divisive topics." I'm a professor at Keene State College and am proud of the University System of NH as an institution that promotes higher learning and critical thinking for students throughout New England – and beyond. I'm quite clear that the passage of this bill would result in a serious compromise of our being able to deliver to our students the high quality of education that we have all come to expect.

I note in the bill's list of "divisive topics" that the first one appears to be defensible, certainly something that we all want to discourage: the belief that "one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex." I'm concerned, however, that this defensible opening clouds and confuses the matter when it comes to the subsequent beliefs, many of which can be interpreted in different ways, and therefore need to be open to discussion and dialogue. This is the kind of "Critical thinking" that's at the heart of a student's education in our system, and which would be seriously impacted were this bill to pass.

My field of expertise and teaching is environmental studies, a field that might seem at first glance to be somewhat neutral when it comes to potentially "divisive concepts." But in the past month, our class discussions have included civil discussion of the following topics, among others: environmental racism as expressed in the siting of polluting facilities near communities of color; exclusion of indigenous people from access to their ancestral lands and/or sacred sites through government policies, mining activities and pipelines; and food systems that make access to healthy food difficult for communities of color, leading to excess diabetes and/or obesity; the importance of access to birth control to women in developing countries to limit excess population growth. All of these could be interpreted as "divisive" under the proposed law. And to teach this subject without engaging them would be a serious loss to understanding in a critical manner, the many ways our culture and our environment are intertwined.

I urge you to reconsider this step, and to remove the "divisive concepts" portion by totally eliminating HB 544 from your agenda. To do so would also ensure that the free speech of our citizens is respected, as guaranteed under the first amendment. Our students, our teachers and our state as a whole will be the better for it.

Thank you for giving this your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fred Taylor, PhD. Dept. of Environmental Studies  
Keene State College,  
Keene, NH 03435  
ftaylor@keene.edu



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Kathy Cahill <kathyhigginscahill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:27 PM  
**To:** Bob Giuda; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Thank you for your hardwork on behalf of NH citizens.

I live in Concord and follow the legislature's work. I am very worried that we are losing out NH advantage by catering to some misguided NH reps who want to alter our free public education system by allowing private schools to get state funding and not funding our education system adequately. Then add HB 544 which you must overturn. Also fully fund Planned Parenthood. We don't want to lose coverage for STD care. Among other topics is the need for DHHS to be fully staffed and maximize federal funding coming into the state.

Kathy Cahill retired nurse practitioner

Good Afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Kim Memmesheimer; I am a resident of Lee. I serve as an advocate with the Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter to actively encourage lawmakers to protect the 26,000 people living with Alzheimer's and their 57,000 caregivers in the Granite State.

I wish to speak today in support of restoring items removed from the budget by the House; specifically:

- I support the Governor's budget request regarding critical increases to three Medicaid services under the choices for independence waiver - personal care, homemaker and case management.
- Increase the budget by \$4 million for adult day services in order to save the state money and keep those with Alzheimer's and other dementia in their homes longer.
- Restore the Governor's funding for senior centers to provide essential services to those with Alzheimer's, other dementia and anyone else who needs these centers.

My mother, a resident of Jaffrey, suffered from Alzheimer's disease for ten years. My father served as her primary caregiver, and the adult day program in Jaffrey allowed my mother to live in her home much longer than she otherwise might have because my father was able to get needed respite from the 24/7 care my mother required. She was safe and engaged while at day care.

I am an attorney in the area of elder care and work with clients who either desire for themselves or their loved ones to stay in their homes – Choices for Independence is critical to that goal. Allowing people with dementia to stay at home for longer will save money for the state in the long run. Funding home healthcare and personal services is vital to protecting the state's budget.

All of these budget items provide vital resources to the unsung heroes for our communities – the unpaid family caregiver. Twice as many caregivers of those with dementia indicate substantial financial, emotional, and physical difficulties compared with caregivers of people without dementia. Dementia caregivers also report lower quality of life than non-caregivers and they are more likely than non-caregivers or other caregivers to report that their health is fair or poor.

Unfortunately, services that could help these families, like the CFI program and adult daycare, have been underfunded for years. The decline of the healthcare workforce puts more pressure on family members to become the primary caregiver. Adult day services and senior centers have also been underfunded which reduces families' ability to keep their loved ones home. This can result in needing to utilize long-term care services earlier than a family would like to, which can be incredibly expensive at both the public and private levels.

In addition to the failure to fund these vital programs, COVID-19 has added strain to the burden of family caregivers. Many senior centers are not able to provide in person services and programs due to limited staff and volunteers. Isolation over the past 14 months has hit those living with Alzheimer's and other dementia especially hard and it has also been an incredible strain on family caregivers who have lost access to outside supports and other resources during this time. Please provide our families the supports they need to keep their loved ones at home.

Thank you for your time today and please support those living with Alzheimer's and other dementia and their family caregivers.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Randy <rcompostr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:29 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Constituent Testimony Opposing HB1 and HB2 by Dr. Hayes

Dear Senate Finance Committee Member:

I believe the House Budget endangers the health of our citizens for 5 reasons:

1. It cuts the DHHS budget by 50 million dollars and eliminates over 250 department positions
2. It fails to fully fund the State's 10 year Mental Health Plan to establish a state wide mobile crisis services for children and a substantial reduction in people held in hospital emergency departments for several days to weeks awaiting admission to a psychiatric facility
3. The budget fails to fund a Community Health Worker in all 13 Public Health Districts in order to create a more effective public health infrastructure
4. This budget effectively puts Planned Parenthood out of business thereby depriving tens of thousands of women of their affordable source for contraceptive care, cancer screening, treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and legal abortion services that are not paid for with any public monies.
5. By codifying the language of HB544, "the divisive language bill", this budget unconstitutionally prevents open discussion of the disparities in health care access and in the overall health of Granite Staters based on racial and ethnic discrimination.

For the above reasons I respectfully request that you reject the House Budget as written. Randy Hayes, MD (ret.)  
Canterbury

Sent from my iPad

## Debra Martone

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**From:** N Traviss <ntraviss@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:05 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB2

I am strongly opposed to inclusion of HB 544 into HB 2 which would impose censorship on topics related to racism and sexism.

This is censorship pure and simple - who decides what is "divisive"? Any definition of divisive topics is not up to any elected official and beyond the authority of any legislator and against the core principles of freedom of speech enshrined in our Constitution.

I live in N.H. - a state that I thought took freedoms and liberty seriously. This is an attack on freedom. Are people not free to discuss and debate complicated subjects in a public school or municipal setting? Will certain books be banned next?

NH should be moving forward in time not backwards.

Nora Traviss  
Keene, NH

Sent from my iPhone

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Laurie Duff <LDuff@eastersealsnh.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:07 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** 5.4.21 Governor's Budget hearing & Adult Medical Day services

Dear Honorable Members of NH Senate Finance Committee

Easterseals NH has operated Adult Day Health programs for over 25 years. Currently we are licensed to serve 191 individuals at our two locations in Rochester and Manchester.

Of the individuals attending an Adult Day Health program whom are Medicaid recipients, most are served under the Medicaid waiver program, Choices for Independence (CFI). The CFI program requires individuals to meet medical eligibility for nursing home level of care. Adult Day Health programs in NH serve hundreds of individuals whom are eligible for nursing home level of care but who choose to remain living in the community with services, often the service of an Adult Day Health program. These programs provide daily nursing care, nutrition services, personal care, transportation, stimulating physical, mental, spiritual programming, family support with the definitive benefit of individuals being able to sleep in their own bed at night.

In a time where nursing home placement is extremely limited and wait lists are insurmountable, it is absolutely fiscally diligent to support Adult Day Health programs which are responsible for avoiding premature nursing home placements, unnecessary hospital admissions, reduction in falls and lessening social isolation of the participants enrolled. The role of Adult Day Health programs in the life of a caregiver needing to breathe for a few hours or even having to remain employed in the workforce, cannot be understated.

Many Adult Day Health programs have extended hours to accommodate the lives of caregivers. We are open 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. It is not unusual for individuals to stay at our program for the entire day. For Medicaid individuals this equates to a rate of \$5.80 per hour. I challenge you to find a service that provides the daily services stated above for such a phenomenally, outdated rate of reimbursement for providers whom are struggling to continue to keep their doors open.

If you have a few minutes to watch this 2 minute video of an Adult Day Health client sharing her testimony, it may increase your understanding of the impact of this level of care in the continuum of Long Term Supports and Services:  
[Adult Day Client Testimony](#)

Thank you for your consideration of supporting the Governor's budget request for an additional \$4.0 million in the state budget for Adult Medical Day services and PLEASE contact me at (603) 621-3497 if you want to discuss this further.

All the best, Laurie

**Laurie Duff**  
Director of Senior Services  
Easterseals NH  
603.621.3422

[Easterseals Older Adult Services video](#)

Adult Day Health Programs  
Homemakers & Health Services (In Home Care)  
Caregiver Programs  
Care Coordination  
Memory Care Programs  
Helping Hands and Mary Gale Flex Funding to assist low income older adults

The information contained in this electronic message and any attachments to this message are intended for the exclusive use of the addressee(s) and may contain privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify Easter Seals New Hampshire, Inc. at [Compliance@eastersealsnh.org](mailto:Compliance@eastersealsnh.org) and destroy all copies of this message and any attachments.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** jean.e.brown1@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:11 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Resident of Hanover registering opposition to SB130

Hi – I wish to let you know that I am very much opposed to SB130, and I'd like this email to go on the record.

Public school funding should stay in the public schools. If individuals wish to send their children to private schools, they should pay for it. SB130 contains no public oversight over how private schools are run, what they teach, their admissions decisions, the qualifications of their teachers, etc. It is not appropriate for public funds to go to private schools where there is no accountability as to where the money has gone and what the results of the funding are, in terms of performance. Where it's public money, there should be public oversight.

Also, there are no guidelines for what qualifications an "education service provider" paid under SB130 must have. A parent could pay herself to tutor her children, or could hire her unemployed brother-in-law regardless of qualifications. This is simply taking money from an already underfunded public school system to help certain parents who want to educate their children differently.

Thanks - Jean

*Jean E. Brown  
4 Storrs Road  
Hanover, NH 03755  
Jean.E.Brown1@gmail.com*



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Janet Moore <jmpcilley@tds.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:15 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1

Please do not pass any legislation that contains the message that NH schoolchildren should not learn about any kind of racism, systemic or otherwise. Please do not pass any legislation that gives money to private schools, religious or otherwise. That money comes from our property taxes and is not meant to fund school voucher programs. We are already dead last in the country for financially supporting public education.

Sent from my iPad

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Ruth Perencevich <rperence@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:00 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** How can you not fully fund DHHS?! asks a NH voter

Mental health, opioids, child protection, disability services, the list goes on and on of issues, even crises, New Hampshire has been facing and struggling to deal with. And this was before Covid and all the social and economic issues brought on by that.

How can it possibly make sense to cut the budget of the department that is on the front line to deal with these issues? How is this fair to the people of NH who depend on these services? How does this action serve the best interest of all the people of NH? How can this be a good idea?

Please stop the \$50 million in budget cuts to DHHS!

And thank you for your consideration. Please put my comments on the record...  
Ruth Perencevich, Concord

## Debra Martone

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**From:** John Gregory Davis <john@meridenucc.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:02 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** 'Susan Gregory-Davis'  
**Subject:** Remove "Divisive Concepts" Language from HB 2  
**Attachments:** Demands For A Peoples Budget.pdf

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I look forward to joining many others in testifying before you tomorrow, when I will be addressing both tax fairness issues (and referring to the attached "NH People's Budget"), as well as urging you to remove the "Divisive Concepts" (formerly HB 544) language from HB 2. More than 80 people gathered for a zoom presentation earlier this evening, hosted by our Meriden Congregational Church Racial Justice Ministry Team, all of us deeply disappointed and disturbed that this language is even being considered here in NH. My guess is that you are already well aware of how great the resistance is to this language, but for the record, there is no one here in our church who supports it, and we are counting on you to remove it from HB 2.

The truth is that our nation *does* have a history of racial and gender inequality and injustice, which cannot be erased by any amount of choosing not to teach or talk about it. Nor need we be afraid of the truth, which a certain well know Rabbi once assured us would "make us free." For indeed, the best hope for our nation to free itself of the terrifying legacy of racial injustice, still so tragically being lived out among us, lies in facing this truth, learning from it, and choosing not to let either our past nor even our present define and determine our future. It is NOT these "concepts" which are divisive, but rather the reality about which they speak which will continue to divide us for as long as we pretend it were not so. As James Baldwin once said so well, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

It is telling and unfortunate that the supporters of this language have so little confidence in its ability to stand on its own merits (or lack thereof) that they have tacked it onto something so important as a budget bill. This certainly makes your job harder. But for the sake of our children, our schools, our businesses, and perhaps most importantly, for the sake of our integrity as a state committed to the values of inclusivity, equity, diversity, honesty, and mutual respect, Susan and I join with the members and friends of our congregation in urging you to remove this divisive language from HB 2, and indeed from any further consideration altogether.

Counting on your wisdom and leadership,  
Revs. John & Susan Gregory-Davis, Co-Pastors  
**MERIDEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**  
PO Box 187  
Meriden, NH 03770  
603-469-3235

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Melissa Hinebauch <mmhinebauch@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:02 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Please reject HB 1 and HB 2 for many reasons, from a NH voter

Dear Chair Daniels and Senate Finance Committee members,

I am a NH voter from Concord. I urge you to oppose HB1 and HB2 for a multitude of reasons.

My main concerns are below:

- Close the \$90 Million gap in state education aid. (Places like Claremont, Berlin, and Franklin desperately need help.)
- Remove school voucher language from the budget. (There is no reason for vouchers to be in the budget. We need to improve our public schools, not dismantle them.)
- Remove HB544 language (attempts to censor and limit teaching about racism, sexism and implicit bias) from budget. (How are Dartmouth, UNH, Plymouth State, Keene State, etc. going to teach history?)
- Fully fund DHHS, fill the 266 vacant positions and restore back of budget funding. (The emergency room boarding crisis has been horrific this past year.)
- Healthcare disparity. (Especially racial disparity and inequities in healthcare.)
- Give tax relief to those who need it most, build a fair and sustainable revenue stream and maximize federal American Rescue Plan dollars. (Stop giving tax cuts to wealthy corporations.)
- Do not create barriers to reproductive rights and women's health.

Please oppose HB1 and HB2 and listen to NH voters, not those from out of state.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melissa Hinebauch  
15 Rockland Rd  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-224-4866

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Steve Boczenowski <boczeno@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:14 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Testimony for the Senate Budget Hearing

Dear Ms. Martone,

Here is testimony that I plan to offer during Tuesday's senate budget hearing.

Good afternoon. My name is Steve Boczenowski and I live in Amherst with my daughter and son-in-law and their four very young children. I'll have to speak quickly, because one of those kids might burst in any minute now. So, I'm just a regular guy – I love the Red Sox and the Patriots and I love my community. I love the beauty of this state and I love the fierce devotion to freedom of its citizens. But one thing sets me apart from most of my fellow Granite Staters: Eleven years ago, my son, Jeffrey took his own life. My life changed that day. I am not the same person that I was on November 30, 2009.

But, despite that tragedy, I consider myself very fortunate. I'll spare you the details, but the circumstances around Jeffrey's suicide made it easier for my family to accept and to deal with the fallout. My wife and I were also fortunate to have worked in the same workplace for several years where we had developed a good reputation, so our co-workers and our employers were very understanding. I will tell you that I recently retired and I went in to have a final conversation with my boss and I told him, "I wasn't the same after my son died." He looked at me and said, "I know." How lucky am I to have left that job on my own terms. Many survivors of suicide loss are not so fortunate.

Also, my wife and I, and my daughter, are resourceful people. We had a support system in place to help us during the weeks and months after Jeffrey died. Again, not all survivors of suicide loss are so fortunate.

Jeffrey was 21 years old when he died, a 4<sup>th</sup> year college student. He was loved and respected by his peers and by the adults in his life. What many of them did not know was that Jeffrey struggled with mental illness. He had depression and he had substance abuse issues, which is common for people with depression. Jeffrey got good grades and held a part-time job and was given extra responsibility by his boss because he earned it. He was a hard-working and responsible young man. After he died, several of his friends and co-workers told us that Jeffrey was a person they would go to for advice because he was caring and, well, they felt he gave good advice.

If Jeffrey was alive today, he would be a very productive member of society. Certainly my heart aches for him; but frankly, the world would be a better place if Jeffrey was still alive.

But I've talked to a lot of people who have lost loved ones to suicide and I have come to learn that Jeffrey's story was not unique – most people who die by suicide are smart and sensitive and hard-working.

Suicide is a pretty rare event, but there are lots more people who live with mental illness, such as depression and anxiety and substance abuse, and they struggle each and every day. How could we have saved Jeffrey? If there were more robust treatment options, I believe that Jeffrey would be alive today.

So, I hope I have your sympathy with my tale of woe, but I'm not sharing my story to get your sympathy. I'm sharing my story to make a point. The point is that there are many, many people in New Hampshire who live with mental illness and a lot of them, most of them, would benefit very substantially from more robust treatment options.

Why should the Senate Finance Committee care about that? Because people with mental illness – and it is estimated that 25-30% of our population live with mental illness – these people create a drag on our economy.

People with untreated mental illness cost more money to treat their physical illnesses.

People with untreated mental illness can be poor employees – they can have high levels of absenteeism, which is understandable; but they also can have high levels of presenteeism, that is, they come to work, but they just aren't very productive.

People with untreated mental illness put a burden on law enforcement. (Talk to a police chief and ask him or her what percentage of their calls are law enforcement issues and what percent are mental health issues. You'll be surprised.)

And it's not just the people who have the untreated mental illness who struggle, there is also the ripple effect in which their loved ones are affected too.

So, people living with untreated mental illness cause a greater burden to our society resources and are generally not as productive as people who are in good mental health. Conversely, people who are receiving treatment for their mental lives frequently live full and productive lives.

It turns out that people with mental illness need treatment just like people with physical illness need treatment. No difference.

So, perhaps you believe that funding mental health programs is just a luxury that the state cannot afford during challenging economic times. Well, I'm here to tell you that mental health programs are not a luxury – they are strategic and will save lives and build our economy.

Senators, I urge you to fully fund the 10 year mental health plan and to look favorably upon mental health considerations in the budget.

Sincerely,

Steve Boczenowski  
89 Christian Hill Rd.  
Amherst, NH 03031

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The INTERFACE Referral Service provides personalized counseling referrals matched for location, specialty and insurance or fee requirements. If you live in Groton, Dunstable, Ayer, Shirley, Pepperell, Townsend, Ashby, Littleton, Acton, Boxborough, Chelmsford, or Westford, you can call the referral helpline at 617-332-3666 x 1411, (toll free number at (888) 244-6843 x1411) Monday-Friday from 9 AM-5 PM, to consult with a Resource and Referral Counselor to receive services. This service is available for people of all ages and more info can be found on their web site <http://interface.williamjames.edu/>

Teenage Anxiety & Depression Solutions (TADS)  
[www.tadsma.org](http://www.tadsma.org)

My name is Sarah Trabucco, and I am an Exercise Science student, and Co-Founder and President of the Health Professionals Club at Keene State College. Outside of my academic career I am also work as an EMT for Harrisville Fire Department and Diluzio Ambulance located in Keene. Currently Diluzio Ambulance services 15 towns in the Cheshire County and has primary 911 contracts in 6 towns. Within the short period of time, I have worked alongside amazing providers and seen an extensive number of patients whose mental health has escalated rapidly throughout the pandemic to the point of life-threatening danger.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated NH's ongoing healthcare workforce shortage. Fewer staff members lead to longer wait times for patients and puts an immense amount of pressure on all medical professionals. I have seen firsthand all these barriers create backups in emergency departments, all of which prevent Granite Staters from getting the health care that they need in a timely manner.

As a Cheshire County community member and a medical professional, I am very concerned with the medical workforce shortage that serve our Granite State patients. It is undeniable that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought on stress to many and has worsened many individual's mental health resorting to medical emergencies. Currently there are very little providers able to treat psychiatric patients. This leaves EMS providers like myself forced to transport patients from Cheshire Medical Center to Hampstead Hospital approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes away.

I know that when Granite Staters do not get the health care they need, our state suffers. To build a health care workforce capable of ensuring a healthy and thriving Granite State, critical investments are necessary to help recruit and retain primary, behavioral, and other care workers.

As an aspiring future Physician Assistant and current medical professional, I urge our legislature to invest in a strong healthcare workforce and healthcare infrastructure particularly for mental health. In effort to attract and retain our current healthcare workforce I urge lawmakers to support the Student Loan Repayment Program for healthcare professionals working in medically underserved areas and adequate Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Trabucco



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Jared Rardin <revjaredr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:20 PM  
**To:** John Reagan; Gary Daniels; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB2/HB544

Dera MEmbers of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the language of HB544, and urge you to remove the languages of HB544 in its entirety from HB2. Systemic racism is real, and as an educated New Hampshire resident and a pastor I take great offense at the notion that "controversial" topics should be legislatively suppressed. It is just another attempt to whitewash the truth, and as Dr. King reminded us, "truth crushed to the earth will rise again."

Sincerely,

Rev. Jared Rardin  
Pastor at South Church UCC  
Former Chaplain for the NH House of Representatives

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"There is something in every one of you that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself. It is the only true guide you will ever have. And if you cannot hear it, you will all of your life spend your days on the ends of strings that somebody else pulls." -Howard Thurman

Pronouns: he/him/his

Friends, please note that I read and respond to e-mails Wednesdays through Sundays.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** M and L V <mikeylynda@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:30 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** No on HB544!

If this the bill that has HB 544 in it I oppose this blatant abuse of free speech and oppression of the truth.

Sent from my Galaxy

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Laura Aronson <laura@mlans.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:32 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Manchester voter against budget

Dear Senators,

My daughter, age 30, is returning soon from working in Japan. She faces huge obstacles in making a new life here in New Hampshire. She has enormous student loans and may not be able to afford renting her own apartment.

As you deliberate the budget, please Invest in our young adults, who deserve affordable higher education, student loan debt relief, and access to affordable rental housing. As our state population ages, we need young adults to “stay, work, play.”

Laura Aronson  
37 Evergreen Way, Manchester, NH 03102

## Debra Martone

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**From:** hhonorow@barrylawoffice.com <hghhonorow@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:06 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Support the developmental services budget in HB1

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Finance Committee;

Good morning. My name is Helen Honorow and I live in Nashua, NH. I ask you to support the developmental services budget in HB 1. I am a member of the Board of Directors of Gateways Community Services. The people served by this area agency are amongst the most vulnerable in our community. Full funding of this portion of the budget permits quality services that allow people to be productive citizens, remain in their homes and community, and avoid far more costly interventions. I urge you to fully fund the developmental services budget. Thank you.

Helen Honorow

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Diane R <lunasol57@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:10 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** FW: HB2/HB544

Please note the following letter written to Senator Chuck Morse

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

**From:** Diane R  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:03 AM  
**To:** chuck.morse@leg.state.nh.us  
**Subject:** HB2/HB544

Hello Mr. Morse:

Thank you for serving the citizens of NH. I understand that tomorrow might prove to be an exhausting day with tensions running high. I know in my heart that the language contained in HB544, if enacted into law will not bode well for us in NH. Hiding from the truths about our circumstances in these times will not solve our societal conflicts. Avoiding difficult discussions does not keep us whole. This proposal will do the opposite of uniting us and ridding ourselves of biases. We are humans. It is our frank discussions that will help us understand each other. We need courage and bravery in these times. Fear is keeping us from thinking, it is causing us to fight or flee. We need to stop thinking in terms of winners and losers. The strengths of our communities depends on the level of safety that the most vulnerable are feeling. If they live in fear with no hope, then we all suffer the consequences. Dominion over others does not equate to success. I want to be proud of NH and not facing uncomfortable truths leads us to continued conflict. I want better for my children and grandchildren. HB2/HB544 as proposed will not create the future I dream for them.

Thank you for letting me trust that you will see this for yourself.

Diane Rogers  
Plainfield

from Mail for Windows 10

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Esperanza R <[rivera.esperanza99@gmail.com](mailto:rivera.esperanza99@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 1:01 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone; [dave.bastien@moorecenter.org](mailto:dave.bastien@moorecenter.org)  
**Subject:** I'm willing to testify

May 3, 2021

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Committee,

Good afternoon, my name is Esperanza Rivera and I live in Hooksett, NH. I would like to keep this brief and to the point. I am asking you to support the developmental services budget in HB 1 and the people that carry out the work. I have family members and friends who have been supported by The Moore Center for several years.

I have witnessed first hand how these supports and services have given families a sigh of relief. The Moore Center is the lifeline to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

If you don't fully fund this program it would threaten the essential services that people with disabilities rely on to maintain their health and independence.

I urge you to fully fund the developmental services budget.

Sincerely,

Esperanza Rivera

126 Mammoth Rd, Hooksett, NH 03106

[rivera.esperanza99@gmail.com](mailto:rivera.esperanza99@gmail.com)

603-351-1587

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Asma Elhuni <asma@radnh.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 2:23 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone; Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey  
**Subject:** Hb 2

Dear Finance Committee Members,

*My name is Asma Elhuni. I am the movement politics director for rights and democracy. I am here in support of the Peoples Budget, not the current budget you are discussing.* The inclusion of the "Divisive language" amendment formally known as HB 544 bill, bans state agencies, K-12 schools, public colleges and universities, and state contractors from learning about and addressing systemic racism and sexism which is critical to overcoming barriers to a healthy and equitable community. All of us, whatever our race, gender, or ethnic identity, deserve a chance to thrive in our state and we cant if we have bills like this that seek to outlaw honest conversation about our history and how our communities struggle today. If we can't talk about it, we will never address the issues that plague all our communities. HB 544 is a near-carbon copy of the Trump Administration's executive order last fall. The language contradicts core public health findings, promotes a narrative that portrays diversity trainings as negate, vs beneficial for all our communities to better understand each other, The bill is ahistorical; and is so deceiving it aims at silencing already marginalized communities and has a foreseeable chilling effect on our most important state funded institutions. Particularly now, after a year of reckoning and sustained mobilization around racial injustice, and as the COVID-19 public health pandemic lays bare the disproportionate health and economic impacts on people of color and women, this bill creates more hurdles to adequately responding. Some reps believe we are living in a post-racial utopia, and to that we ask them, if that is true, why do all statistics point to a rise in hate crimes? Why are COVID-19 victims disproportionately people of color? Why is it In 2018, the poverty rate for whites was roughly 1 in 14 people (about 7.2%), while for those identifying as Black it was 1 in 5, with Latinx as 1 in 6.

If you truly believe racism doesn't exist anymore, you are the reason why we must have these honest discussions that can only be had by without bills like this Because as long as we keep behaving like everything is fine we won't ever address the racism and sexism that plagues and harms all of us. The bill's proponents seem to believe if we stop talking about racism, it will magically disappear. Frankly, the events of the last few months in New Hampshire have indicated otherwise. There are two currently serving representatives who have used harmful antisemitic rhetoric on their personal social media pages and claimed that they were unaware of the antisemitic history of these items. It's a damning indictment of the necessity of anti-racism education for a productive multiracial democracy that their defense was ignorance. There was also another incident where a representative was being Islamophobic. We must proactively educate people about harmful racial stereotypes, the history of racism and sexism, and its continued persistence in today's society if we want to build a functioning multiracial democracy. **We demand that the language around "divisive concepts" be removed from the budget in all forms in which it may appear.**

Best

Asma Elhuni

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**Asma Elhuni**  
Movement Politics Director

Rights and Democracy NH  
[asma@radnh.org](mailto:asma@radnh.org)

*"Collective Liberation or No Liberation"*



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Anita Mathur <anita\_mathur@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 3:09 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove "Divisive Concepts" Amendment from HB 2

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please remove the "Divisive Concepts" amendment from HB 2.

Thank you,  
Anita Mathur, Ph.D  
Durham, New Hampshire

# Statement in Opposition to HB 2

Anthony Poore, May 4, 2021

I believe issues of diversity, equity and inclusion are the defining issues of our time, that if we are to achieve the hopes and aspirations of those that came before us, we must work collectively towards comprehensive enduring equitable solutions.

While I believe, most Granite Staters agree with this sentiment, history demonstrates that women, people of color, LGBTQ+ communities, among others suffer disproportionate negative outcomes relative to income and wealth disparities, education and health outcomes and the disproportionate negative impact of the criminal justice system on America's lower income and black and brown communities. The pandemic has exasperated and brought to bear the structural nature of our inequitable systems and the outcomes they produce as people of color contract the coronavirus in higher numbers, women exit the workforce in disproportionate amounts, and racial issues and related hate crimes in the United States reach their highest level in a decade, as reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

There is undeniable evidence that diversity, equity and inclusion in business and government leads to heightened levels of innovation, customer service, citizen's engagement, and long-term economic growth. We must remember that diversity is the result of inclusive environments and Inclusion or the "feeling of belonging", is the top driver of employee satisfaction and student retention in higher education. When leaders like yourselves create environments where everyone is encouraged to bring their differences to work and school, organizations and governments thrive; and if your goal is to achieve social and economic justice for ALL, then diversity, equity and inclusion efforts are some of the most powerful tools legislators can leverage to improve the upward mobility of historically marginalized populations.

Though New Hampshire remains less diverse than much of America, diversity is growing. Recent U.S. Census data demonstrate the numbers of foreign born and non-foreign-born communities of color in New Hampshire are increasing and many demographers expect these trends to continue with New Hampshire's fastest growing areas concentrated in the South and Central parts of the state.

The "Divisive Concepts" amendment is an attempt to ban racial and gender equity efforts in government by silencing any conversation or effort that recognizes the existence of white supremacy or systemic racism. It refers to unifying racial justice and equity efforts as "divisive" and prohibits any training that would create "anguish" or "guilt", with the intended effect of shutting down ALL conversation about race and gender in government, by government contractors or in publicly funded schools and universities.

This amendment protects those who benefit from maintaining a status quo that denies history, silences lived experience, and keeps communities divided. It goes to great lengths to call all attention away from systemic oppression, and centers on prohibiting any discussion of what it labels “divisive concepts” - essentially anything that recognizes race and gender as shaping our lived experiences. The amendment displays a lack of comprehension (willful or not) regarding the extent of harm caused by institutional and historical inequalities.

Let us be clear...systemic racism, or systemic oppression does NOT mean all individuals in certain groups are racist and bad. Rather, it means that despite any one individual’s intentions, the real-world outcomes and impacts of policies - from the workplace to prisons - are unequal and inequitable because they are rooted in a history of policies that benefited certain groups over others.

As a parent of two multi-racial school age children, I can personally appreciate the challenges children of color face when confronted with the consistent and pervasive bigotry of low expectations and appreciate a community where all students have the chance to gift New Hampshire with their potential and fulfill their destiny.

That said and as a person whose dedicated his life to New Hampshire and those that call this state home...I stand in opposition to HB 2 as an amendment to the house budget.

Thank you,

Anthony Poore  
Manchester, NH 03104

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Beth Lukaitis <volunteerwfff@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 5:28 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 2

PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT! The language in HB2 that is a clear attempt at 1) government over-reach 2) thought policing 3) protecting racists and sexists in the state. In other words: CENSORSHIP!

This prohibits people from learning about, and addressing, systemic racism and sexism – a critical part of overcoming barriers to a healthy and equitable community. One would think that we know not to do this, especially with the events and marches over the past year!!!

Challenging white supremacy and dismantling systemic bias requires us to self-exam and confront our own biases, and the structures in which we operate. But instead some leaders are doing the opposite – working to block anti-racism work and other efforts to build a safe, healthy, and equitable New Hampshire. This is NOT the state we know and love.

Elizabeth Fenner-Lukaitis  
Warner, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Beth Fox <bethfox45@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 6:18 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Budget Hearing testimony for May 4

Dear Debra,

SB 130 must be removed from the budget to allow discussion of its impact in order to prevent legal problems and misunderstanding down the road. In its previous form, HB20, there was intense public opposition, so putting it in the budget with other bills is unacceptable and disingenuous.

SB130 makes sweeping changes to the way public school is funded by the state. New Hampshire is already last in the country in state support of public education. This bill makes sure it stays in last place, direction adequacy funding to individuals instead of towns burdened by high property taxes.

Dedicated towns have made sacrifices to fund public education. New Hampshire will lose its high education rating with this continuation of neglect by the State.

Thank you for noting my testimony.

Sincerely,

Beth Fox  
Wolfeboro

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Susan Chase <srfchase@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 6:20 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Harold French; Louise Andrus; wells.natalie@leg.state.nh.us

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to request that the Senate Finance Committee, in its budget deliberations, remove the HB 544 language that was inserted by the NH House into the state budget via HB 2. That policy bill was tabled after it encountered strong opposition from NH residents and it seems unfair and inappropriate to insert such policy legislation into the budget where it has no business. To insert its language into the budget after the bill itself was tabled is dishonest and anti-democratic, as well as unfair to our children's education.

On the troubling substance of the HB 544 language itself, it calls for censorship of the sometimes painful, but accurate, teaching of American history as it relates to racism and sexism. How can we hope to raise future citizens who can think clearly for themselves if we use this budgetary process to erase uncomfortable truths from the teaching of our history our children receive ?

Thank you for your consideration,  
Susan Chase  
Andover

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Ellis Robinson <ellismmrobinson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:10 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1&2: Retain Interest & Dividend Tax and ...

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

**Please retain the Interest & Dividend Tax and oppose the use of public taxpayer funds for private schools.**

New Hampshire is just beginning to emerge from the pandemic. Thousands of families are still struggling financially. Any erosion of state tax income pushes the cost for needed services, especially education, directly to property taxes.

**1: RETAIN THE INTEREST & DIVIDEND TAX:**

- In 2018, this tax raised **more than \$106 million** from fewer than 60,000 individuals and companies.
- **Nearly half this income comes from fewer than 1500 returns.**
- The rate is just 5% and the first \$2400 in I&D is exempt – plus an additional \$1200 for anyone older than 65.
- Projections for this year are **around \$130 million.**

**In a state without an income tax, the Interest & Dividend Tax is the only progressive tax we have: it taxes the richest -- those most able to pay -- and raises much-needed funds for government services.**

**2: REMOVE SCHOOL VOUCHERS & HB544 LANGUAGE FROM HB2.**

This proposed budget already has a \$90 million shortfall in school funding. NH's students cannot afford diverting millions more to private schools. When it was clear that the public vehemently opposed HB544, its language to censor and limit teaching about racism, sexism, and implicit bias was inserted into HB2. Please remove both these sections from HB2.

**3: SUPPORT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PEOPLE'S BUDGET. ([Click here.](#))**

Thank you for your service and your attention,

Ellis M.M. Robinson  
239/470-1092  
58 Pintail Knob, #2006  
Grantham, NH 03753

## Debra Martone

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**From:** D'Vorah Kelley <dvorah.kelley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:20 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1

I oppose this bill as it includes information that would prohibit the teaching/discussion of racial injustice, and other forms of discrimination so prevalent in our society that students need to be allowed to discuss.

D'Vorah Kelley  
dvorah.kelley@gmail.com



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Miriam Cahill-yeaton <nmyeaton.mims@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:21 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1 and HB2

I oppose HB1 and HB2. Please make sure the finance committee members get this information. there are many aspects of those bills, as currently written, which do not belong in a budget bill. Republican leaders are trying to force secrets on the public. I feel this is illegal and unconstitutional.

Miriam Cahill-Yeaton  
Epsom

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Tiffany Gagnon <tif.blessing.gagnon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:24 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 2

As a member of the public, I oppose HB 1 and 2. I insist the People's Budget be passed and that any referenced to "divisive concepts" be removed from the language.

Including "divisive concepts" in the budget is government overreach. Dictating what and how schools teach is not the job of the finance committee. Nor is it their job to determine or prevent Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training — which is exactly what this language will do.

Thank you,  
Tiffany Gagnon

Testimony to the NH Senate Finance Committee  
by Thomas G. Gaumont, Manchester NH

As a retired social studies teacher in both public and public schools, I would like to focus my testimony on the attempt to include the central concepts found in HB 544. I have master degrees in Human Services; Secondary Education in Social Studies Grades 5-12; Curriculum Development and Instruction; as well 36 post-graduate hours in International Relations and Concept Resolution. Based on my 40 years of experience in human services and education, I believe if left in this budget, the restriction "divisive concept" provision would have the serious impact of undermining the very foundation of democratic education in our state. It is my humble but informed opinion that letting this provision in the budget will undermine educational structures and frameworks that supports and nurtures our democracy, and in doing so set a dangerous precedent which when seen from an historical perspective supports the movement of a state closer to authoritarianism and totalitarianism. . (1,2)

I believe, like many citizens, democratic education supports political freedom and a democratic nation. John Dewey, who is viewed by many as the father of modern democratic education in the US and other democratic nations, argued that curriculum should be relevant to students' lives, include open discussions of current events and develops critical thinking skills. His theory was a central concept in my teaching program. Like Dewey, most teachers like myself, support and advocate for continued democratic educational practices., By essentially censoring open discussion in examining issues such as racism, sexism and the like would suppress basic freedom of speech. which would clearly undermine open discussions of relative current events. (3)

Acknowledging that democratic education supports political freedom, and democratic nations; and it is generally acknowledge. Yet their are no clear modern history provides many examples of societies which have lost democratic that lost their way and slipped into the darkness and despair of political oppression as a result of their failure to protect their democratic structures, frameworks and associated freedoms. Central to this movement towards anti-democratic regimes has been the undermining of educational institutions by authoritarian states. We see this by examining the educational policies in Nazis of Germany, Fascists of Italy, and Communist in the Soviet Union, China and other so called socialist states. Why do I include this discussion of autohtarism and totallianism in this context? Although it may seem an overreach or an exaggeration to some of you, I would respectfully disagree. Although some of these authoratarian and totalitarian regimes gained power quickly, others did so incrementally. But in all the cases, repressive educational policies wher implemented to oppress democratic educational practices. (4,5,6 & 7)

In Nazi Germany, Hitler once in power immediately made changes to the school curriculum. Education in "racial awareness" began at school and children were constantly reminded of their racial duties to the "national community." This is described in length by Louis L. Snyder, an American scholar, who witnessed first hand the Nazi mass rallies held from 1923 on in Germany; and wrote about them from New York in his *Hitlerism: The Iron Fist in Germany* published in 1932 under the pseudonym Nordicus.[1] Snyder predicted Adolf Hitler's rise to power, Nazi alliance with Benito Mussolini, has pointed out: "There were to be two basic

educational ideas in [their] ideal state. First, there must be burnt into the heart and brains of youth the sense of race. Second, German youth must be made ready for war, educated for victory or death. The ultimate purpose of education was to fashion citizens conscious of the glory of country and filled with fanatical devotion to the national cause. The psychologist Alice Miller's insightful exploration into the roots of fascism in Germany points to both child rearing and the educational system as primary in this regard. In both one sees what Miller terms 'poisonous pedagogy' whereby the child is silenced and taught obedience to authority by whatever means necessary. In Nazi Germany, you can clearly see how control of its educational institutions and practices, including censoring of content discussion. (4,5,6 & 7)

In the communist states such as Soviet Union, China and others, the leadership focus on three main educational tasks; teaching people to read and write; training people to carry on the work of political organization, agricultural and industrial production, as well as economic reform, and most importantly for our discussion, remolding the behaviour, emotions, attitudes, and outlook of the peoples of their countries. In other words, to rigidly follow the doctrines of the communist leaders; be it Lenin, Stalin, Mao or Castro. All adapted their educational systems to the Soviet Unions' template which emphasized [t] he paramount importance of ideology in education may also be seen in other ways. Ideological and political indoctrination was indispensable to all levels of schools and to adult education and all forms of "spare-time education." It consisted of learning basic tenets of Marxism-Leninism and studying documents describing the structure and objectives of the new government as well as major speeches and utterances of the party and government leaders. Its aim was to engender enthusiasm for the proletarian-socialist revolution and fervent support for the new regime. (4,5,6 & 7)

So the basic question which I ask you learned men and women is: Do you want to support democratic educational practices in our state or would you rather support an anti-democratic step as manifested in the "divisive concept" provision of the current budget being developed. I pray that you have the insight and foresight to see that if you choose the former you will be protecting our state, its communities and sending a message to the rest of the country that those who are attempting to incrementally undermine our democracy will not be allowed to do so in the Granite State.

Respectfully  
Thomas G. Gaumont  
Submitted on May 5, 2021  
Manchester, NH

## References

1. LegiScan <https://legiscan.com/NH/text/HB544/id/2238380>
2. Citizens Count <https://www.citizenscount.org/bills/hb-544-2021>
3. John Dewey [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Dewey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Dewey)

4. Leo Snyder [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis\\_Leo\\_Snyder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Leo_Snyder)
5. Alice Miller [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice\\_Miller\\_\(psychologist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice_Miller_(psychologist))
6. Spartacus Educational-Education in Nazi Germany  
<https://spartacus-educational.com/GEReducation.htm>
7. Educationa Under Communism.  
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/education/Education-under-communism>

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Family Anderson <hancock.andersons@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:41 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 1 & HB 2

Please, please, please vote to oppose HB 1 and HB 2. I worked in public education for 30 years, it needs the state's financial support not cuts! We're in the midst of a pandemic, it is not over. The Dept. of public health needs to be robust, not cut! The budget should be fiscal, not talking about teaching about racism, or sexism ( which are real issues) or defunding family planning! PLEASE oppose these bills!

Kathy Anderson of Hancock NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Catherine Bushueff <agawamdesigns@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:48 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposition to budget/HB544

To: Senate Finance Committee Member

\*The language of House Bill 544 regarding "divisive concepts" has NO place in the budget and needs removal in its entirety. \*

The integrity of our public and private institutions are at stake. This dangerous addition to the budget is a brazen attack on both truth and rights, the reality of our country's history and current conditions, and the freedom of speech.

HB544 would:

- \* Strike at freedoms of protected speech and depress speech and grossly distort conversation and study about essential matters of public concern.
- \* Undermine the recommendations of the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability, Community, and Transparency (LEACT).
- \* Impose unconstitutional restrictions on government contractors.

The "divisive concepts" language in the budget sends a clear, chilling message: New Hampshire is intolerant to diversity and gender equality and lacks the commitment to address racial discrimination, gender bias, and injustice. The Finance Committee must remove HB 544 in full from the budget.

Sincerely,

Catherine Bushueff

22 Ridgewood Road  
Sunapee, NH 03782

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Heather Pike <heathermpike@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:12 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 budget - a Life long NHerite asks you to not cut funds for mental health

Thank you for reading this email.

To the entire committee:

Please know that mental health is the first health and foundation on which our state stays strong. My family was critically affected for years due to lack of resources in N.H. for mental illness care at any level. Every family knows that mental illness affects us all and N.H. lags in its approach to supporting the health of citizens. I participate classes for families on this and have seen statewide the need for funding mental health care at all levels.

It must come first in the budget so families don't suffer and our loved ones who live with illnesses that affect their brains get treatment and supports so they can live a long life with the least pain and most chance to contribute, that is their right. I ask you to oppose cuts to any of the following as NAMI summarizes for us-

- Emergency Department Boarding
- Children's Mental Health
- Access to Mental Health Care for Self or Family Member
- 10-Year Mental Health Plan
- Statewide Mobile Crisis Response - must be real and now!
- Forensic Hospital (*for people charged criminally and found not competent to stand trial/not guilty by reason of insanity or who are unable to be safely treated at New Hampshire Hospital*)
- Mental Health Training for Law Enforcement and First Responders - every PD in N.H. needs it including state police!

Every extended family in our state has a member who lives with mental illness. Or have lost someone or almost to suicide. Or lost someone with mental illness to the criminal/ prison system. And we all have to be able to talk about it all of us including the providers, so I also ask everyone not to permit language to sneak into the budget that tries to put a cap on us all talking about mental illness and talking about how different groups of people are affected by mental illness and the disparities that exist in our state we need open free dialogue. Yes race and economics play a part. It's 2021. It's time we all started talking about was real so that we can have the healthy lives we all desire.

One of our sons developed psychosis as a teen and lost his formative years to suffering and is starting over at 23 to live life but not without ending up in the criminal justice system - because people who can't think straight through no fault of their own because they are ill, act out and need medical attention and care, but don't get it in N.H. In our family, we had one son who refused college to stay and care for the situation at home. I lost a promotion because my caregiving was seen as a barrier. The economic and emotional cost on our family would be difficult to measure but it was extremely high.

Every extended family would tell a story. It's time to stand for mental health as a first health. And free and open dialogue must be part of that. We have to say what's real! No family, no person, is immune to getting a brain illness any more than they are cancer. That's a medical fact.



Fully funding mental health budget items is the sign N.H. is ready to be first in the nation for its citizens and N.H. decides to be the state that leads the nation in funding and supporting mental health care every step of the way.

Please bring N.H. into the lead and oppose cuts to all mental health budget items so many worked so hard to prepare.

This saves money in the long run when people return to lives and stay out of the jails and morgues. Get our loved ones humane, modern care and give them futures - diagnosis, housing, effective treatment, hospital care, all of it. NH must lead the nation not trail. We can't wait. Our loved ones can't wait.

Heather Pike

94 Prescott Rd., Pittsfield, NH 03263

Ask me my family story any time on mental illness. Every extended family is living the same story in their own version and it doesn't have to be that way in New Hampshire we can do better. But that begins with funding the budget. Put our money where our mouths are!

Sent from my iPad

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Robert Starkey <robjstarkey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:19 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Budget Bill Objection

Finance Committee Members,

I'm writing to voice my objection to the HB544 language being included in the budget bill. It clearly has nothing to do with the important work of devising and passing a budget for the state and it should be removed so as not to take attention from the critical financial matter really at hand.

I object to HB544 in and of itself, but I feel that's a separate issue - the finance committee should focus on the budget and remove non-germane issues to be addressed independently.

Regards,

Rob Starkey  
Hanover, NH  
Finance Professional

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Bill Kingston <DC9guy@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:21 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1

Invest in our recovery from COVID-19, with full funding for public health; economic stability for renters, homeowners and small businesses; increased access to broadband internet and equipment for remote learning; and remote access to public meetings.

Invest in real economic security, by addressing the needs of low-income families for financial assistance for food, heat, housing and transportation. Include undocumented and mixed status families as eligible for these investments. Invest in trainings and efforts which identify and eliminate barriers to this assistance.

Invest in our state workers, with a living wage, good benefits, and fulfillment of our obligations for their dignified retirement. Invest in workers' development and training. Eliminate any and all provisions that prohibit training, discussions and efforts that recognize the existence and impact of systemic sexism and racism.

Invest in BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities, recognizing they are the most impacted by injustice and that as a state we must right our wrongs and discontinue practices that disadvantage BIPOC Granite Staters. Eliminate any and all provisions that prohibit training, discussions and efforts that recognize the existence and impact of systemic racism. Truth and reparation for Black, indigenous and immigrant communities is a necessary first step towards healing and reconciliation in our society. BIPOC communities do not have the most police, they have the most resources allocated to the well-being of its members.

Invest in people with disabilities and their families, by fully funding all disability services and supports.

Invest in our children, their parents and caregivers, with affordable, high quality childcare and family support services.

Invest in our elders, with supports for aging in place and relief from burdensome property tax rates.

Invest in health, mental health, reproductive health and dental health, so that all New Hampshire people have access to high-quality, affordable health care, reproductive health care, mental health services, dental care, affordable medications, a robust network of community health workers as well as paid family and medical leave and paid sick leave.

Invest fully in public education including adult education, so that all NH people have an opportunity to receive an inclusive education, develop their intelligence and to achieve their full potential. Do not erode these investments with vouchers which drain much-needed funding for public education and downshift costs to property taxpayers.

Invest in our young adults, who deserve affordable higher education, student loan debt relief, and access to affordable rental housing.

Invest in the vitality of rural communities, with infrastructure to support full access to all services required for health, education, employment, transportation and communication.

Invest in affordable housing by allocating adequate funds to the New Hampshire Housing Trust Fund and creating housing that is affordable and available to the lowest-income households and houseless people in our state.

Invest in community safety, with first responders who meet the needs of the situation, including social workers as well as emergency medical assistance. Public safety for our communities is not more policing; public safety is an investment in more community resources like housing, good jobs, small businesses, mental healthcare and crisis centers for domestic and sexual violence. The safest communities do not have the most police, they have the most resources allocated to the well-being of its members.

Invest in harm reduction and overdose prevention that moves us away from punitive measures to community solutions that center

people's health and well-being. This means addressing substance use disorder (SUD) as a health condition and not a crime, using evidence-based public health strategies. We cannot effectively deal with SUD without addressing the underlying issues in our communities that make it difficult to cope with life's overwhelming struggles.

Invest in educational programs and supportive services for all incarcerated persons so as to create opportunities for their well-being and success.

Promote decarceration and new beginnings for formerly incarcerated people, with mental health and drug courts, increased opportunities for parole, community-based alternatives to incarceration, readily-available post-release housing and support for employment and community re-integration.

Invest in our environment, promoting energy conservation, renewable energy and sustainable agriculture, with laws for the re-use of plastic containers and packaging, with better recycling opportunities and incentives for homes and businesses.

Invest in public transportation, with promotion of energy-efficient and clean transportation and incentivized carpools.

Invest in a strong, multicultural and multiracial democracy with laws that support fair elections, such as fairly drawn districts, easy and secure voter registration for all citizens, and no-excuse absentee voting that is accessible to disabled, elderly, and working voters.

To fund these investments, we call upon our New Hampshire State Government to fairly tax the wealthy and corporations which operate in New Hampshire. Tax cuts for the wealthiest Granite Staters severely reduce state revenues and therefore lead to continued underinvestment in needed services. Our tax system must be designed so that New Hampshire people and businesses contribute to the common good according to their ability to pay.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Martha Pitt <mabelmaid1@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:30 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposition to House Bill 2, May 4 1:00 PM

Committee members:

I am writing to express my opposition to the language of HB 544 which has been included in HB2 Section 330 *"New Chapter; Propagation of Divisive Concepts Prohibited. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 10-B the following new chapter: Chapter 10-C PROPAGATION OF DIVISIVE CONCEPTS PROHIBITED."*

I vehemently opposed this bill when it was HB544 and my feelings have not changed. This bill undermines one of the founding principles of this country which is the freedom of speech. While the wording of the bill seems innocuous, upon closer inspection it becomes clear that, if passed, it would dictate what citizens would be allowed to say and what they would not be allowed to say. This is in direct opposition to the first amendment of the Constitution.

Another reason for my opposition is that there does not appear to be any provision for due process written into the bill. If a teacher or someone providing a training were to be accused of being in violation of this bill, it appears that they would have no recourse for rebuttal or appeal. The enforcement is to be carried out by a "senior political appointee". With all due respect, that there does not appear to be any fairness or due process in this system.

I am of the firm belief that it is time for us to teach the history of America as it actually happened. I long for an end to divisiveness, gross partisanship and hatred in this country. I also firmly believe that if our students were taught the truth about how present sentiments, especially as they relate to race, began, we would begin to see a greater understanding and more empathy to those who have been on the receiving end of racism and bigotry for centuries. We cannot move on from what has occurred in the past until we acknowledge that it occurred. As a country we have made mistakes in the past and I feel it is time to recognize them, make reparations for them and move forward to a more peaceful environment. This bill is in direct opposition to that process and I feel compelled to speak out against it.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Martha Pitt  
17 Old Bennington Rd  
Greenfield NH 03047

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Tom and Gretchen Gaul <gaul07@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:32 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fully Fund Developmental Services

Deb - I meant to copy you regarding my email testimony to the budget committee - please see below.  
Thanks and good luck today.

----- Original Message -----

From: Tom and Gretchen Gaul <gaul07@comcast.net>  
To: "Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us" <Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us>  
Cc: "lou.dallesandro@leg.state.nh.us" <lou.dallesandro@leg.state.nh.us>  
Date: 05/02/2021 8:19 AM  
Subject: Fully Fund Developmental Services

Resending to include the correct email address for Mr. D'Allesandro

Hello Chairman Daniels: My name is Tom Gaul, and I reside in Amherst NH. I'm asking you and committee members to support the developmental services budget in HB1 and the people who carry out the work. Our son, Michael, receives support services via Gateways Community Services through the Developmental Disability waiver.

Michael was born with a a brain disorder and was not predicted to live past 5 years old. We are happy to report that he turned 31 this past month. We are so grateful to have Gateways in his life with all their supportive people and the many services they provide. Gateways has made a big difference in his quality of life as well as ours.

We urge you to fully fund the developmental services budget. In our opinion, this is simply the right thing to do. Thanks for listening.

Tom and Gretchen Gaul  
15 Gowing Lane Amherst NH  
[gaul07@comcast.net](mailto:gaul07@comcast.net)  
603 673 8600



# AMMONOOSUC COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

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May 04, 2021

Senator Gary Daniels, Chairman Senate Finance Committee  
LOB Room 210-211  
33 N. State Street  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1 and HB 2

Dear Chairman Senator Gary Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of our majority patient board of directors, staff, and over 10,000 patients I thank you and your colleagues for your continued support and investment into the individual health and community wellness of our patients, your constituents. Ammonoosuc Community Health Service's integration of primary preventive health care services is representative of high value care as we demonstrate a 15-24% return on healthcare dollar invested.<sup>1</sup>

As such I am writing today to discuss two programs within the New Hampshire Division of Public Health that are critical for the financial stability of community health centers such as ACHS, ensuring necessary access to primary care services for our patients and the communities we serve.

## 1. Investment in the State Loan Repayment Program (7965 Rural Health and Primary Care)

The State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) provides partial payment towards educational loans of health care professionals in exchange for a commitment to serve in areas designated as Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) with Medically Underserved Populations (MUP), designated as Health Provider Shortage Areas (HPSA)

All six of ACHS care delivery sites, strategically located across the twenty-six rural White Mountain towns that comprise our service area where 31,000 Granite Staters reside, all qualify as medical, dental, and mental health, MUA, MUP, and HPSA<sup>2</sup>.

The success of SLRP is in part measured with by the fact that ACHS has an average length of employment for providers of 11.72 years, skewed low by several new hires, with some providers

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<sup>1</sup> Robert S. Nocon, MHS, Sang Mee Lee, PhD, Ravi Sharma, PhD, Quyen Ngo-Metzger, MD, MPH, Dana B. Mukamel, PhD, Yue Gao, MPH, Laura M. White, MS, Leiyu Shi, DrPH, MBA, MPA, Marshall H. Chin, MD, MPH, Neda Laiteerapong, MD, MS, and Elbert S. Huang, MD, MPH, "Health Care Use and Spending for Medicaid Enrollees in Federally Qualified Health Centers Versus Other Primary Care Settings", American Journal of Public Health, November 2016, Vol 106, No. 11

<sup>2</sup> <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find>

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**ACHS-Dental**  
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14 King Square  
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F (603) 823-5460

**ACHS-Warren**  
333 NH Route 25  
Warren, NH 03279  
P (603) 764-5704  
F (603) 764-5705





# AMMONOOSUC COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

now at 20 and 25 years of service. Being founded in 1975 and a community health center since 1994, ACHS has seen several retirements after an entire career at ACHS. Currently ACHS has five providers benefiting from SLRP and I anticipate they will ultimately retire from ACHS.

Data from the NH Department of Health and Human Services supports the ACHS experience as they indicated that approximately 80% of SLRP recipients stay in the Granite State after their commitment is completed. As provider shortages are identified and as funding permits, the SLRP expands the types of providers eligible in order to meet the needs of the Granite State.

In 2019, the legislature and Governor overwhelmingly supported a non-lapsing \$6.5 million appropriation to the State Loan Repayment Program because of the health care workforce shortage, which has only grown because of the pandemic. The funds were not available for DHHS to encumber until November 2019 because the budget did not become law until late September 2019. In April 2020, \$4 million was removed from the SLRP to pay for the State's COVID response. Additionally, the Division of Public Health could not send any SLRP contracts through the Governor and Council process because of the focus on the pandemic.

After the legislature increased support to SLRP, DHHS worked with health care organizations to determine how to maximize the additional funding and address the health care needs of our residents. The priorities identified included private practice dentists (to meet the demand of the Medicaid adult dental benefit), behavioral health staff, and registered nurses. It is critical for the community health centers and other eligible organizations to know when we can advise our current staff and potential applicants to apply for this excellent program and whether the expansion of the providers eligible will happen. We are a small business, and the uncertainty of SLRP affects our ability to ensure access to care in medically underserved areas of the state. There should be approximately \$5.1 million left in that budget line. This funding is more critical than ever to help health care organizations like ours address the health care workforce shortage facing our state.

## 2. Primary Care Contracts (5190 Maternal and Child Health)

The primary care contracts within the Division of Public Health help us increase access to health care services and ensure quality outcomes in the communities we serve. We utilize these funds to deliver primary and preventive care to low-income and underinsured pregnant women, newborns, adolescents, and elderly individuals, and to treat acute and chronic health conditions like depression, diabetes, coronary artery disease, asthma, and chronic oral health infections. This funding also makes it possible for health centers to deliver an array of enabling patient-centered services like care coordination, translation, transportation, homeless outreach, mobile primary and dental care, health education, and much more. These dollars are an investment in our patients' engagement in their own self-care and improving their own clinical outcomes and avoiding more costly and serious health issue in the future – the value of this investment is immeasurable.

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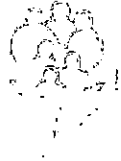
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F (603) 764-5705



# AMMONOOSUC COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

These patients are often in the greatest need of navigation as they often experience significant barriers to accessing health care made worse in a rural area such as ACHS. The services and work funded by the primary care contracts are not paid for by Medicaid, nor are they redundant to any state funding or payments the health centers receive from commercial insurance or other grants. Moreover, the payments health centers receive from commercial insurers, Medicaid, and Medicare are insufficient to negate the need for funding the primary care contracts. Our primary care contract requires us to meet quality measures to ensure that these services are saving the state money and represent a good investment. A reduction to primary care contract funds would increase barriers to care for our patients whose health and wellness are reliant on these services and result in reduction in healthcare workforce in order to remain fiscally responsible and solvent.

The health care needs of the state related to COVID-19 and primary health care are at an all-time high, and ACHS relies on the State Loan Repayment Program, and Primary Care Contracts to keep our doors open and our patients healthy.

At ACHS we have further integrated population, public, and primary care health as we provided COVID-19 Testing and vaccination services to our patients and community. We have done so with exceptional collaboration with the NH Department of Health and Human Services, Littleton Regional Healthcare, Cottage Hospital, Direct Relief, and the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resource Service Administration. This is who ACHS is and continues to be for the patients we serve.

As always, I thank you for your thoughtful deliberation, fiscal prudence, and sound investment in our mission as we strive to optimize individual health and community wellness outcomes. Please let me know how else I may help you in this process.

Be mindful, be active, and be well,

Ed

Edward D Shanshala II, MSHSA, MSEd  
CEO  
603-991-7756 (cell 24/7)  
[Ed.Shanshala@ACHS-Inc.Org](mailto:Ed.Shanshala@ACHS-Inc.Org)

3

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Franconia, NH 03580  
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F (603) 823-5460

**ACHS-Warren**  
333 NH Route 25  
Warren, NH 03279  
P (603) 764-5704  
F (603) 764-5705

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Bonnie Achterhof <bonniefachterhof@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:33 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1

The ratification of HB1 will do harm to education, diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the state of NH. Please remove the "divisive concept" ban from the budget.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Mary K. Coffey <Mary.K.Coffey@dartmouth.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:37 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 and 2

To whom it may concern: I am a citizen of NH who lives in Lyme and teaches at Dartmouth College. I have three kids who attend NH schools. I pay taxes and vote. I write to express my opposition to House Bills 1 and 2. I oppose the cuts they propose to important programs and believe that the People's Budget better reflects the needs of our community and the priorities of our community.

I am also EXTREMELY opposed to any amendment that follows from the travesty of the Trump Administration's 1776 proclamation and the many dark money bills that have followed that are moving through our legislature and clogging up our school board meetings, and which attempt to make it impossible to address systemic racism, sexism, bias, or equity in our communities and schools. The "divisive concepts" amendment is one such attempt. It is un-legislable. It will burden our state and municipalities with endless lawsuits, and it represents an assault on many of the basic rights to expression and thought that we value in a democracy.

We already have anti-discrimination laws that can easily be activated if someone in the community is acting, speaking, or legislating in a way that is "divisive" on the basis of race, class, sex, or creed. So there is no need for this kind of legislation. This amendment is one of several attempts to do an end-run around the people of the state who overwhelming support anti-racist and anti-sexist policies as well as equity initiatives. This amendment has NOTHING to do with NH law, history, or community values. It needs to be removed from the bill no matter what the vote on the budgets ends up being. It has nothing to do with the budget or finances and has only been stuck into this bill as an attempt to get it on the books without the consent of the electorate.

Mary Coffey  
168 Dorchester Road  
Lyme, NH 03768

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Frederick Lansigan <Frederick.Lansigan@hitchcock.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:47 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 2 / HB 544

Dear Senate Finance Committee Member:

I believe the House Budget endangers the health of our citizens for 5 reasons:

1. It cuts the DHHS budget by 50 million dollars and eliminates over 250 department positions
2. It fails to fully fund the State's 10 year Mental Health Plan to establish a state wide mobile crisis services for children and a substantial reduction in people held in hospital emergency departments for several days to weeks awaiting admission to a psychiatric facility
3. The budget fails to fund a Community Health Worker in all 13 Public Health Districts in order to create a more effective public health infrastructure
4. This budget effectively puts Planned Parenthood out of business thereby depriving tens of thousands of women of their affordable source for contraceptive care, cancer screening, treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and legal abortion services that are not paid for with any public monies.
5. By codifying the language of HB544, "the divisive language bill", this budget unconstitutionally prevents open discussion of the disparities in health care access and in the overall health of Granite Staters based on racial and ethnic discrimination.

For the above reasons I respectfully request that you reject the House Budget as written.

**Especially troubling is the divisive language bill which prevents open discussion of health inequities that need to be addressed especially as it has to do with COVID and many other health issues. As an officer for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Dartmouth-Hitchcock, I teach residents and fellows, as well as medical students at Geisel to take into account structural racism and other structural inequities facing marginalized populations. We teach about implicit bias to trainees and faculty. All this is in effort to improve and equalize the care delivered to people of color relative to the general population. We are the largest health care institution in the state, and as a physician here, I am committed to ensuring the best possible care for all the people in our state.**

**I ask that you reject the House Budget Bill as written.**

Respectfully,  
Erick Lansigan  
Frederick Lansigan  
Principal for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Department of Medicine  
Medical Director of Inpatient Cancer Services  
Director of Clinical Trials in Hematology  
Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center  
1 Medical Center Drive  
Lebanon, NH 03756  
[Frederick.Lansigan@hitchcock.org](mailto:Frederick.Lansigan@hitchcock.org)  
office: 603-650-4628

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Michael Franklin <mfranklin@naminh.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:49 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Divisive Concepts wording in State Budget

Regarding wording or sentiment about Suppression of “divisive concepts” and “systemic racism” taken from NH HB 544 which has found it’s way into New Hampshire’s proposed state budget:

It does not sound appropriate to include any of this in a process that presumably deals with income and expenditure.

In fact, I can’t think of any good place to include this proposal.

Are not all attempts to suppress debate problematic?

This one seems deliberately injurious or at best very unwise.

Anytime I discourage examination of past events, particularly past mistakes, I encourage and make more probable the repetition or perpetuation of those mistakes.

How would a person of the Jewish faith or of Roma heritage living in Germany feel about a similar suggestion regarding the Nazi regime’s extreme racism and the extermination camps that resulted?

How do we deal with any challenge if we are prevented from discussing it?

Education and frank discussion around racism, sexism and violence are essential here and now if we are to avoid becoming another repulsive example discussed by future generations.

Michael Franklin

Warner NH

603-568-3304

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Roye Ginsberg <royeginsberg@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:55 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB544

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

The bill HB544 is offensive. I am Vice Chair of the Monadnock Interfaith Project. Banning schools and other state agencies from teaching about systemic racism and sexism is not constructive with developing our democracy. Respectful discussions about racism and sexism is the only way to improve our society. Avoiding these challenging issues will cause increase pain in the long run for our citizens.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Beverly Woods <info@beverlywoods.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:02 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** opposed to HB 1 and HB 2

To Whom It May Concern,

I am opposed to this budget for several reasons. One: tax cuts for those who are wealthy, service cuts for those who are not. This is not sustainable. Nor is passing needed expenditures down to the property tax, which this budget will do. If you pass this budget you are raising taxes on every one of us who pays property tax.

Also, the inclusion of the HB544 language in the budget is damaging and counterproductive. If we really haven't a drop of racist sentiment anywhere here in NH, why would it be necessary to ban discussion of this obviously harmless subject? This ill thought, uninformed gag rule will hamper needed discussions and is so vague that lawsuits are sure to follow. (What exactly constitutes a claim that someone is "responsible" or should feel guilty?)

The bill was bad to begin with and definitely does not belong in the budget. Please remove it.

sincerely,

Beverly Woods  
401 Haines Hill Rd.  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

603-941-4947



## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Pete Brogowski <[pbrogowski@gmail.com](mailto:pbrogowski@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:28 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB1 and2

Honorable Representatives and Senators,

I am writing in opposition to HB1 and 2. School vouchers are not an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. Private schools do not offer opportunities to students with disabilities. They are not required to educate all, rather they are entitled to take whomever they like. As a parent of a student with a disability I don't want to see funds that are desperately needed to support students like her sent to schools that will not even consider teaching her.

Students deserve excellent educational services. Families deserve the ability to choose alternative educational opportunities but not at the cost of students and families who are struggling to obtain the desperately needed, legally obligated, and already underfunded serviced.

School choice is a misleading term and a fallacy. Claiming that 'under performing schools' require the choice of private, often religious based schools ignores the fact that you as a government have the capacity to improve upon the schools rather than abandon them. Pulling funding from public schools who are already underperforming according to your standards leads to further decline in those schools, leaving more granite state children and families behind.

I urge you to remember your mandate. I urge you to consider our most vulnerable children and communities. Do not abandon them. Don't keep them down. Help them rise up by ensuring our schools are well funded—especially those you deem underperforming.

Make the right choice. Not the politically expedient one.

Pete Brogowski  
North Hampton, NH  
[pbrogowski@gmail.com](mailto:pbrogowski@gmail.com)  
603-402-0685

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Loren Pombo <lpombo@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:34 AM  
**To:** Chuck Morse; Lou D'Allesandro; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Linda Steir; Yvette Davila  
**Subject:** Governor funding for adult day care centers

NH Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to ask you to support our Governors request for additional funding for the much needed Adult Medical Day Service programs.

We ,Yvette Davila and I (legal guardians after moms death 2018) were fortunate to find Senior Class in Hampstead. NH, an adult day care center for our sister Linda Davila (68yrs mentally challenged) after the one she was attending, Seaside Adult Day Care in Hampton, NH was forced to close down. Between Covid and low reimbursement rates the business could no longer sustain itself.

I'm certain we can all agree the negative effect COVID-19 has had on businesses, (if your business were fortunate enough to survive)

Adult Day Care Centers, now more than ever before is a much needed service. A service that provides for the safety and well being of our elderly and disabled family members wishing to live at home.

Senior Class has been instrumental in assisting with providing and scheduling a speech therapist as well as an occupational therapist at the premises for Linda's needs. They help with anything we may need for Linda.

Linda's speech has shown much improvement and she is able to express herself in full sentences and paragraphs now! Her hand dexterity has improved. She's able to tie her shoe laces and button her sweater.

Senior Class Day Care Centers allows for our loved ones to be able to live at home while providing the help and support we need with their care and special needs Monday-Fridays. I honestly don't know what we would do without their help.

It is a place where we know Linda is safe, well taken care of and loved throughout the day and week.

Linda enjoys going to class everyday, the stimulation of social interaction, playing games, arts and crafts, and music helps her gain more independence.

It takes many resources and financial means to operate a quality Adult Day Care Center.

Please support the governor in increasing Medicaid rates / CFI, providing as well as any additional financial support so mentally disabled and the elderly have a safe place to spend the day away from their Primary Care Giver.

Respectfully,

Loren D Pombo  
Financial Management Consultant

Loren D Pombo

Financial Management Consultant



## Debra Martone

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**From:** John Keegan <peoresnada@tds.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:36 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 & HB 2

Dear members of Senate Finance Committee: There are at least 4 major flaws in the budget bills that you can fix.

1. Under funds public education. Add funds.
2. Downshifts costs to many towns and cities. Towns like Boscawen, because of our small tax base, due in part to the large acreages controlled by County and State government, as well as the paucity of business activity exacerbate our revenue challenges. Taxpayer property tax bills continue to rise with no end in sight. Fix it with broad based tax. I prefer and income tax which is less regressive.
3. Cutting unfilled positions in Health & Human Services. Remember the disaster at DCYF? The seeds for that are traceable to budget deliberations in the House and Senate during the days of Neal Kurk's reign. We laid out the rationale for additional staffing, freeing up frozen positions and adding project money for voluntary services because we could see the trends and our case workers were drowning. Well, the response from the esteemed Rep. Kurk was, I have a number to meet and that is my goal, or something to that effect. Well, those birds came home to roost during the governor's first term. His response was to cashier the messengers and to defer the political heat and then spend more money than would have been needed with timely support from Mr. Kurk et al. So, be prepared for the re-run if you continue shadow boxing with the budget and not meeting the needs of ALL NH residents. This time around Public Health needs significant investment.
4. Using parliamentary chicanery to pass the Free Staters gag bill, among other proposals that lack majority support. The old story of bury the fringe's bills in a large 'must pass' legislation thus avoiding the scrutiny and action racism, white privilege and other injustices require to maintain a viable democracy.

Ignoring our problems does not solve them, ask any effective leader.

Wake up and do right!

Thank you,

JK

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Michael Franklin <mfranklin@naminh.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:42 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Prioritize funding for Mental Health initiatives in the NH State Budget

Particularly in the context of the pandemic that has significantly exacerbated mental health problems in all sectors of our communities it is essential that we prioritize budget allocations for the following:

- Increased capacity for Mental Health Emergency Patients.
- Creation of a comprehensive Ten year mental health plan.
- Creation of a statewide mobile crisis response.
- Increased funding for Children's mental health services.
- Providing Forensic hospital capacity as the NHDOC's SPU is decommissioned.
- Mental Health training for law enforcement officers and first responders.

Thank you,

Michael Franklin

Warner NH

603-568-3304



# NAMI New Hampshire

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Honorable Senator Daniels Chairman  
 Senate Finance Committee  
 107 North Main Street  
 Concord, NH 03301

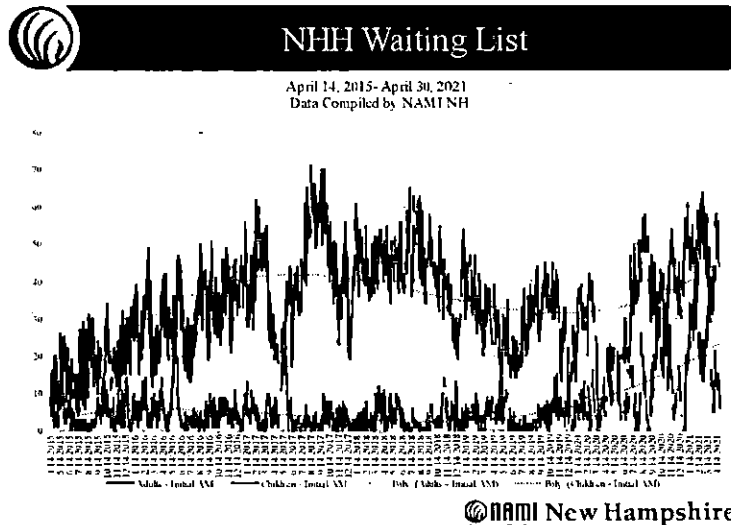
May 4, 2021,

Chairman Daniels and members of the Committee:

My name is Kenneth Norton and I am the Executive Director of NAMI NH, The New Hampshire Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI NH is a grass roots non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the lives of all people impacted by mental illness and/or suicide. I am a Licensed Independent Social Worker, have served as a subject matter expert on suicide and mental illness to SAMHSA and the Department of Defense, I am a former foster parent, and I have family members with mental illness as well as addictive disorders.

During Governor Sununu's budget address on February 11, 2021, he once again stated that NH is in a mental health crisis. This crisis has been exacerbated by the pandemic. Local and national data indicate during the past year there have been significant increases in stress, anxiety and depression across all ages, though particularly impacting children and youth. The most visible symptom of this is emergency

department boarding of individuals in a mental health crisis while waiting for an inpatient bed. This is a practice NAMI NH has long described as wrong medically, legally, ethically, morally, and economically. During the last several months we have exceeded previous highs of the numbers of people being boarded with 51 children being boarded on February 14, 2021, and a combined high of eighty-nine children and adults being boarded during several days in.



February of 2021. Children are dark blue and adults are black. You will note the spike for both adults and children during the past year coinciding with the pandemic.

Emergency Department Boarding is the tip of the proverbial iceberg relative to timely access to mental health care. There are long waits for outpatient treatment, if people can get appointments at all. Workforce shortages pose an ongoing challenge to addressing NH's mental health crisis. Fully funding

*Find Help, Find Hope.*

NAMI New Hampshire • 85 North State Street • Concord, NH 03301  
 InfoLine: 800-242-6264 • Tel. 603-225-5359 • Fax 603-228-8848 • info@naminh.org / www.NAMINH.org

the State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) is critical to addressing workforce shortages in mental health and other health related fields.

Suicide continues to be a significant public health issue in our state. Suicide (color coded green in chart) is the second leading cause of death (after accidental injury) in New Hampshire for those for ages 10-34 and age third

leading cause of death ages 35-44 and fourth leading cause of death ages 45-54. A 2018 report by the US Center for Disease Control issued report in June 2018 indicated NH had the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest increase in suicides rates in the US. Suicide has a profound impact on the family and friends left behind and can also have a devastating impact on schools, communities and workplaces.



## NH Leading Causes of Death: 2015-2019

| Rank | Age Groups                |                          |                         |                                   |                                    |                                    |                                    |                                    |                                     |                                       |                                       | All Ages                              |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|      | <1                        | 1-4                      | 5-9                     | 10-14                             | 15-24                              | 25-34                              | 35-44                              | 45-54                              | 55-64                               | 65+                                   |                                       |                                       |
| 1    | Heart Disease 25          | Heart Disease 18         | Malignant Neoplasms 11  | Malignant Neoplasms 11            | Heart Disease 16                   | Heart Disease 16                   | Heart Disease 16                   | Malignant Neoplasms 26             | Malignant Neoplasms 2,622           | Heart Disease 11,296                  | Heart Disease 13,976                  | Malignant Neoplasms 13,976            |
| 2    | Congenital Anomalies 20   | Congenital Anomalies 20  | —                       | —                                 | Stroke 192                         | Stroke 162                         | Malignant Neoplasms 211            | Stroke 177                         | Heart Disease 1,388                 | Malignant Neoplasms 10,132            | Heart Disease 13,418                  | Heart Disease 13,418                  |
| 3    | Malignant Neoplasms 15    | Stroke 15                | Stroke 15               | —                                 | Heart Disease 20                   | Malignant Neoplasms 42             | Stroke 195                         | Heart Disease 177                  | —                                   | Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 1,126 | —                                     | —                                     |
| 4    | Heart Disease 14          | Influenza & Pneumonia 14 | Born Neoplasms 14       | Congenital Anomalies 14           | Malignant Neoplasms 16             | Heart Disease 46                   | Heart Disease 118                  | Stroke 122                         | Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 397 | Alzheimer's Disease 2,267             | Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 3,841 | Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 3,841 |
| 5    | Respiratory Disease 10    | Malignant Neoplasms 10   | Congenital Anomalies 10 | Born Neoplasms 10                 | Stroke 15                          | Low Disease 15                     | Low Disease 58                     | Low Disease 168                    | Diabetes Mellitus 277               | Cerebrovascular Disease 2,485         | Cerebrovascular Disease 2,485         | Cerebrovascular Disease 2,485         |
| 6    | Cerebrovascular Disease 9 | Diabetes Mellitus 9      | Heart Disease 9         | Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 9 | Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 14 | Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 14 | Diabetes Mellitus 31               | Diabetes Mellitus 121              | Low Disease 277                     | —                                     | Alzheimer's Disease 2,267             | Alzheimer's Disease 2,267             |
| 7    | Respiratory Disease 8     | Heart Disease 8          | Stroke 8                | Stroke 8                          | Congenital Anomalies 8             | Cerebrovascular Disease 11         | Alzheimer's Disease 11             | Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 81 | Stroke 322                          | Diabetes Mellitus 1,225               | Diabetes Mellitus 1,446               | Diabetes Mellitus 1,446               |
| 8    | Respiratory Disease 7     | —                        | Disease of Appendix 7   | Stroke 7                          | Cerebrovascular Disease 7          | Congenital Anomalies 7             | Cerebrovascular Disease 17         | Cerebrovascular Disease 73         | Cerebrovascular Disease 125         | Influenza & Pneumonia 1,270           | Influenza & Pneumonia 1,270           | Influenza & Pneumonia 1,270           |
| 9    | Stroke 6                  | —                        | —                       | Stroke 6                          | Diabetes Mellitus 6                | Diabetes Mellitus 6                | Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 16 | Stroke 39                          | Stroke 84                           | Stroke 610                            | Influenza & Pneumonia 1,142           | Influenza & Pneumonia 1,142           |
| 10   | Stroke 5                  | —                        | —                       | Stroke 5                          | Stroke 5                           | Stroke 5                           | Congenital Anomalies 11            | Congenital Anomalies 24            | Stroke 80                           | Stroke 786                            | Stroke 828                            | Stroke 828                            |

Source: CDC WONDER, 2014 -2018



We anticipate that the mental health impact of the pandemic will continue for some time to come. For children and youth, the impact of delayed or missing key social or academic developmental milestones will likely have lasting impact academically, socially, emotionally and ultimately may negatively impact their mental well-being. For parents, the year long mental health impact of juggling virtual learning of children with work and other responsibilities is taking a visible toll. We are also beginning to see negative impacts of the year-long pandemic on our workforce, many of whom have been under tremendous pressure. This impact goes well beyond the obvious front line health care providers, first responders, teachers and others and is impacting across many different businesses and organizations.

This includes our Department of Health and Human Services. Across all departments people have worked extraordinarily hard to meet the needs of NH's most vulnerable residents during the pandemic. Specifically, the Division of Behavioral Health needs to be fully staffed in order to have the leadership and capacity to move the 10 year mental health plan forward and to hold the various systems accountable to achieving the objectives of the plan. This includes the planning and implementation of the Federal legislation creating a national 3 digit 988 Suicide Prevention Hotline/Mental Health Crisis Line by July of 2022. NAMI NH opposes the back of the budget cut to DHHS currently contained in the House budget.

Toward that end, we must continue the work begun during the 2019 legislative session of implementing the key recommendations of the 2019 ten-year mental health plan. This includes continuing to focus on developing a continuum of community-based services for mental health crisis response, step up and step-down services, inpatient and outpatient capacity, supported housing, peer support, suicide prevention and substance use disorder services.

NAMI NH also supports moving ahead with building a new forensic hospital in order to end the practice of people with mental health conditions who have not been charged with crimes being transferred to the Department of Corrections and the Secure Psychiatric Unit. *It is imperative that we continue to prioritize mental health funding in order to address the mental health crisis we are currently facing. I call on you to fully fund mental health services as proposed in the Governor's budget.*

Lastly, as a member of the Governor's Law Enforcement Accountability, Community and Transparency Commission, I offer my strong support for fully funding Police Standards and Training as included in the Governor's Budget. As a member of that committee, it was clear that Police Standards and Training required significant increased funding in order to meet the recommendations of the previous Legislative Budget Audit. Additionally, there were specific recommendations that were made by the LEACT commission were included in the Governor's budget. With over 45% of the officer involved shootings in New Hampshire being people with known mental illness, NAMI NH strongly supports increased funding and support for Police Standards and Training as proposed in the Governor's Budget.

As a member of the LEACT commission, I personally oppose the divisive concepts language currently included in the House budget and believe it would undermine much of the work done by the Commission to address implicit bias and related recommendations for law enforcement, as well as the courts.

Thank you to all the finance committee members for your hard work and service to our state. If I can be of any assistance as you address mental health issues during your budget deliberations, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Norton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth Norton, LICSW  
Executive Director



May 4, 2021

Good afternoon, Chairman Daniels and Members of the Committee,

My name is Susan Stearns and I am a resident of Sanbornton. In the interest of full disclosure, I am employed as Deputy Director of NAMI New Hampshire and volunteer as a board member for Lakes Region Mental Health Center. I come before you today in neither of those roles, however. Instead, I am here as a mother – the most important role of my life.

I ask that you, at a minimum, restore the funding for mental health services originally included in Governor Sununu's budget and ensure that the budget you pass fully funds critically needed mental health services – that are accessible to all Granite Staters.

Yesterday there were 43 adults and 7 children experiencing a mental health crisis waiting in emergency departments for an inpatient psychiatric bed. We all know that this emergency department boarding crisis has been going on, unabated, for over 8 years in our state. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Granite Staters of all ages have faced this unacceptable delay in accessing essential mental health care.

The story I have to share with you is one that is too common, I fear. It is the story of my adult child who lives with a serious mental illness. While traveling nearly two years ago now, my child phoned me – he was going through a recent medication change. My child was in crisis, fearing he would hurt himself...he asked if he should go to the emergency room. I did not know what to say.

I have been his advocate since he was first diagnosed with an emotional disorder at age 5, a serious one at age 8, and a serious mental illness at the age of 14. I have been a mental health advocate for over 20 years. I have over a decade of experience serving on a mental health center board of directors. This is what I do. I advocate for people with mental illness and their families every day. I get calls from people who know me and what I do and ask for help with their loved ones – and I do my best to direct them to where they need to go.

Faced with my son in crisis – over 500 miles away – I was terrified. I have already sat at the bedside of my eldest child after a suicide attempt. In that moment with my second child on the phone, I was afraid for his safety with him alone in the house, but I was more afraid for his safety should he wind up boarding in the ED without an advocate at hand. He is 6'6", not violent at all, but highly sensitive and emotional. He has never had an inpatient psychiatric admission. I knew he would become despondent at being held for days with nothing to do – and likely very emotional, especially given the medication change he was going through. I was terrified that he would prove frightening to staff because of his size. I was terrified he could wind up, frankly, injured by security or even in the county jail. My son, who is the most law-abiding person I know, one of the kindest and most sensitive.

In one of the hardest decisions of my life, I told him no. Do not go to the ER. I was able to access family support for him and returned home the next day. We successfully managed his crisis with his doctor.

This is a story I rarely share. Sadly, I have heard it frequently – from other families, other parents – those who know about what it means for someone experiencing a psychiatric crisis to board for days or weeks in an emergency department. So, when you hear that 43 adults and 7 children were waiting yesterday – that is not everyone in crisis. That does not include the people who stay home from work to stay with their family member, who travel hundreds of miles to care for them, who hunker down at home and pray.

Today my loved one, like so many others, is struggling with the effects of the pandemic and resulting stress and isolation. Pre-Covid, we knew we had a mental health crisis. We know that what we saw – those numbers of folks waiting in emergency departments – were the tip of the iceberg. We must act now before we founder on that iceberg.

I urge you to increase funding for mental health services and ensure full funding for NH's 10-Year Mental Health Plan. Ours loved ones cannot wait – they need a fully funded system that includes robust community-based treatment and additional inpatient psychiatric bed capacity.

On behalf of my loved one, and the many other Granite Staters who experience similar crises, I urge you to help us now.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Susan L. Stearns  
57 Morrison Road  
Sanbornton, NH 03269  
603-738-5843  
slstearns@gmail.com



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[www.nhcbha.org](http://www.nhcbha.org)

Senator Gary Daniels, Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
Room 103, State House  
Concord NH 03301

May 3, 2021

Dear Chairman Daniels and members of the Finance Committee:

We are writing as the ten designated community mental health centers (CMHCs) contracted with the State to provide mental health services across New Hampshire, to respectfully submit our list of priority areas of the budget as you consider HB 1 and HB 2. As you heard from Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Commissioner Shibinette on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, the behavioral health crisis begins and ends in the community. We cannot expect to see the problems of the hospital emergency room waitlist or the spike in children's mental health needs solved until we adequately and sustainably fund services on the community level. We therefore offer these six areas for your consideration:

1. Mobile Crisis Units: CBHA submitted a memo to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee last month on this issue, from which we are excerpting key points here:
  - a. DHHS is finalizing a contract with a call center and referral vendor, and is working with the CMHCs to amend their contracts to detail the mobile crisis elements of those contracts. A first concern here is that the funding in the contracts might not be sufficient to meet the needs and terms of the new service. Currently, the Department has asked each CMHC to present its budget for staffing and servicing mobile crisis.
  - b. There appears to be serious risk that the total budget necessary to create a statewide system will add up to more than what the Department has budgeted for the program. This shortfall, if it occurs, could be because SB 14 and its budget appropriation in 2019 was designed to fund children's mobile crisis, and the program which has emerged is a statewide program for children and adults – yet no additional funding has been appropriated.
  - c. We are concerned that if the mobile crisis program is launched with reimbursements below the actual costs of the program, it will become a financial burden on the CMHCs, harm other programs, and dampen the successful opportunities which mobile crisis programs offer.
  
2. Housing: On March 12, 2021, we submitted a straw proposal to Commissioner Shibinette to address the need for enhanced investments in community and transitional housing for



**NH Community Behavioral  
Health Association**

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the State's mental health system. The proposal addressed: retention of the existing housing inventory operated by the CMHCs; budgeting for 50 new beds and capital support for either leasing or purchasing beds in order to create capacity; and a targeted workforce program through the State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP). It also discussed the need to address the alternative payment model in which the CMHCs participate with the three MCOs. The total estimated cost of the program outlined was \$26,700,000 in total funds for the 2-year budget. Assuming an FMAP match of 54% (blended traditional and expansion populations), the total biennial General Fund cost is \$12,282,000, or \$6,141,000 for each year. In addition, the proposal suggests a Capital Budget allocation of \$2,500,000 to \$5,000,000.

3. State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP): As noted above, the mental health workforce needs to be bolstered through increased and sustained investments in SLRP, which is recognized as the most effective way to attract and retain qualified health care workers. As of March 2021, the vacancy rate at the 10 CMHCs is 9% - which leads directly to increased wait times for individuals to receive services in their communities and cascades into the hospital emergency room waitlist crisis. The appropriation for SLRP was \$6.5 million in the last budget cycle, of which \$5.1 million was not allocated by the State; contracts for workers at CMHCs and community health centers were left unfunded.
4. Medicaid Spenddown: HB 1639 of the 2020 session was signed into law by Governor Sununu on July 29, 2020 as Chapter 39 and takes effect on July 1, 2021. Section 1 states: *"The commissioner of the department of health and human services shall amend the income eligibility requirement for "in and out medical assistance" defined in section 625 of the department's medical assistance manual as less than or equal to 133 1/3 percent of the section 1931 income limit or using methodology as described in section 1902(r)(2) of the federal Social Security Act."*

This law increases the cap on the spenddown, which has not been raised for 30 years. The current spenddown level is \$591 per month for an individual and \$675 for a household of two; HB 1639 raises these levels to \$901 and \$1,047. This does not impact a large number of Medicaid recipients - 7,112 as of October 2019 - but for those it does affect, the economic burdens are huge, and unnecessary. DHHS included this as a priority need in its budget but it was not included in the Governor's proposal. The issue was raised by Senator Rosenwald at the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of your Committee and the Department responded that they cannot implement this policy without funding. In the written HB 1 and HB 2 Language requests document presented by John Williams of DHHS on the 30<sup>th</sup>, adding an appropriation of \$2.7M for FY22 and \$5.4M for FY23 is suggested. The CMHCs strongly support this added funding.



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5. RSA 135-C:13 repeal: Also in the the written HB 1 and HB 2 Language requests document presented by John Williams of DHHS is the proposal for an extension of the prospective repeal relative to the Waitlist for Community Mental Health Services. The CMHCs have worked with the Department in every budget cycle since 2011 to ensure this is included in the trailer bill. As noted in Mr. Williams' requests, this was an LBA 2010 performance audit recommendation. The CMHCs strongly support this.
6. Divisive concepts: The CMHCs sent a letter to Commissioner Shibinette on April 30<sup>th</sup> requesting guidance regarding the divisive concepts language in HB 2. If enacted, this will impact the CMHCs' ability to conduct trainings, issue guidance and educate staff and subcontractors on matters that promote diversity, equity and inclusion. We asked the Commissioner how the Department plans to enforce and implement this policy. That is our concern as non-profit businesses contracted with the State to provide mental health services.

But we have also heard from board members, staff, consumers and community members who are more alarmed about this than any other area of policy before the Legislature this year. They have told us this is wrong for New Hampshire and is antithetical to what its proposers claim: that it is needed to ensure that free speech is not infringed upon in our state. It does the exact opposite. America has a long history of giving voice to 'divisive concepts.' Abolitionists, Women's suffrage pioneers, anti-child labor activists, and civil rights martyrs and leaders all spoke about 'divisive concepts' in their day. America becomes stronger when voices speak up to challenge the status quo; this is who we are. Cultural competency requires that we understand our history and our own experiences and biases so we can break the vicious cycles of racism, sexism, homophobia, and physical and verbal aggression toward minorities in our community. Therefore, on behalf of those we serve and work with, we must object to the inclusion of this language or any "modified" version of it. Please remove this section of the budget.

Thank you for your attention to the requests of the CMHCs. We are of course available to meet with your Committee to discuss these matters in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Couture", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jay Couture, President



## New Hampshire Psychiatric Society

7 N. State St., Concord, NH 03301

Patrick Ho, MD, MPH  
President

Catrina Watson  
Executive Director

Dear Honorable Senators,

As president of the New Hampshire Psychiatric Society, I have seen firsthand that mental health care services for children are underfunded. While it has been encouraging to see how supportive our legislators are and how children's mental health care has become a priority, we still aren't meeting all the mental health care needs of children in New Hampshire.

Children who need mental health care should be able to obtain effective care in a timely fashion. However, access to these services in our state is becoming more and more elusive. Last month, the number of children in our state awaiting psychiatric hospitalization eclipsed 50. The wait for a bed can be days to weeks for many of these children while they remain in limbo in emergency departments across the state. This is a dangerous disservice to our children and it is imperative that resources are allocated to remedying the bed shortage immediately.

Our state lacks the infrastructure to keep our children out of hospitals and needs the robust intensive outpatient programs, in-home services, or mental health respite beds necessary to provide mental health care for our children in their respective communities and outside of an inpatient setting. Funding is key to how we address this crisis, and we should be precise in using it for innovative strategies to improve our state's mental health workforce and providing services for children and families in their communities that can tend to mental health care needs before they reach crisis level.

COVID-19 has demonstrated that any stressor to our state's already under-resourced and overwhelmed mental health system might represent a breaking point. It is now more evident than ever that we not only need to fund and prioritize outpatient mental health care services for children, but that we must apply this funding to diversify the types of mental health care resources available.

Sincerely,  
Patrick Ho, MD, MPH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Elissa Shatz <elissa@evanshatz.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:48 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1 and HB2

Dear Finance Commuittee,

Please do not support the current budget. We need to tax corporations, address school budget funding and control our property taxes and stop voucher programs. If you approve as is, it will increase Brookline's taxes alone by over \$1 million dollars. HB544 is inappropriate to put in a budget as are a number of other things. This budget is not for the future of NH. Hope you can work to make it better.

Sincerely,

Elissa Rasmussen

Voter and Resident of Brookline NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Richard Adams <richarda82@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:55 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** opposed to HB2

Hello,

I am a resident of Vermont with children in the Hanover/Dresden School district. I am opposed to the language that would remove local control of our schools by attempting to limit certain discussion topics as deemed divisive by the state of New Hampshire. I was initially confused about how to comment on this, because I see this language is now in a budget bill before the finance committee. How is this related to a budget item? We have already seen how unpopular HB544, this seems like a way to slip something in without a real debate or discussion.

When the government tries to limit speech or approve certain topics, that a clear overreach and encroaches on free speech and local control. Please oppose the amendment around "divisive concepts" in HB2.

Thank you,  
Richard Adams



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Rebecca Kates <rebeccakates@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:09 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** oppose HB 2

To the respected members of the NH Senate Finance Committee:

I urge you to remove the "Divisive Concepts" amendment from HB 2. Preventing education and training on systemic racism in NH public schools is outrageous. On the contrary, NH should be a leader in the country mandating this topic is covered fully, truthfully, and completely with guidance from organizations in NH dedicated to fighting racism and its impacts.

Please remove this language!  
Thank you,  
Becky Kates

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Catharine Farkas <cafarkas@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:13 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove "Divisive Concepts" Amendment!!!!

Dear Finance Committee members,

Please remove the so-called "Divisive Concepts" amendment from the Budget Bill HB2. It has no place in the budget and no place in an open and accepting NH.

This is a fairness, human rights and civil rights issue. Instead of being anti-racist, as proponents tout, it is actually racist and discriminatory.

HB 544 was too divisive to pass out of committee; there was NO reason to sneak it into the budget!

Please remove this hateful amendment from the budget bill!!!

Thank you,  
A constituent of Senator Giuda,  
Catharine Farkas  
37 Osgood Rd  
Sanbornton, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Kelly Perry <kperry@midstatehealth.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Please FUND the Adult Medicaid Dental Benefit!  
**Attachments:** AAPHD article.pdf

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your support of the Adult Medicaid Dental Benefit in NH!

**Please support funding this benefit this session by adding it to the NH budget.**

This is the opportunity for us to fund a benefit allowing for integrated, cost-effective medical/dental care that supports appropriate treatment in the right setting at the right time, readiness for employment and education, and the opportunity for successful substance abuse treatment and extended recovery. It is imperative that funding be ADDED to the budget this session!

NH is wasting countless tax-payer dollars treating dental problems in emergency rooms and allowing untreated dental conditions to negatively impact chronic disease management, in turn leading to more hospital admissions. Dental disease is associated with over 100 medical diseases and conditions that can result in increased chronic care costs, avoidable hospitalizations, and emergency room visits that provide antibiotics and pain relief but no dental repair.

In addition, without a comprehensive dental benefit, NH residents are unable to return to the workforce and they are missing numerous school and work days.

Tell your own story as a provider, program manager, family member, patient, etc. What does an Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit mean to you and what you do.

I treat patients everyday who are worried about their recovery efforts because they are suffering from dental pain. I see 20, 30 and 40 year olds who are losing all of their teeth to dental disease because they haven't had access to preventive or restorative care for their entire adult life. These folks cannot eat properly, they cannot manage their chronic diseases properly, they are unable to find work. Their quality of life is so poor that they are feeling hopeless about turning it around.

A recent study published in the American Association of Public Health Dentistry's journal found, "that Michigan's Medicaid expansion contributed to perceived improved oral health for beneficiaries, with implications for improved daily functioning, including employment. Our findings suggest the importance of Medicaid dental coverage for reducing racial/ethnic and gender disparities in oral health care use and oral health among low-income adults. Dental care is an optional service for adults under Medicaid. As policymakers consider changes to the scope of, and eligibility for, Medicaid services, it is important to consider the impact of dental coverage on access to dental care and oral health for low-income individuals and communities. Policies that reduce, restrict, or eliminate Medicaid dental coverage may reverse demonstrated and potential improvements in oral health care use, oral and general health and functioning, and employability among low-income people.<sup>30</sup> Improved oral health is an important contributor to the health, social and economic well-being of Medicaid beneficiaries and their communities."

**Please support funding this benefit this session by adding it to the NH budget.**

Thank you,

**Kelly Perry, DMD**

Dental Director | Mid-State Health Center

Ph: (603) 217-6329

[kperry@midstatehealth.org](mailto:kperry@midstatehealth.org)

*The Mission of Mid-State Health Center is to provide sound primary health care to the community accessible to all regardless of the ability to pay.*




*Where your cure comes together.*

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## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Beneficiaries' perspectives on improved oral health and its mediators after Medicaid expansion in Michigan: a mixed methods study

Edith C. Kieffer, PhD, MPH<sup>1,2</sup> ; Susan D. Goold, MD, MHSA, MA<sup>1,3,4,5</sup>; Tom Buchmueller, PhD<sup>1,5,6</sup>; Romesh Nalliah, DDS, MHCM<sup>1,7,8</sup>; Erin Beathard, MPH, MSW<sup>1</sup>; Matthias A. Kirch, MS<sup>1</sup>; Erica Solway, PhD, MPH, MSW<sup>1</sup>; Renuka Tipirneni, MD, MSc<sup>1,3</sup>; Sarah J. Clark, MPH<sup>1,9</sup>; Adrienne N. Haggins, MD, MSc<sup>1,10</sup>; Minal R. Patel, PhD, MPH<sup>1,5</sup>; John Z. Ayanian, MD, MPP<sup>1,3,5,11</sup>

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## Keywords

dental care; oral health; Medicaid; health care reform; public health.

## Correspondence

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## Abstract

**Objective:** To investigate self-reported improved oral health and its mediators, and job-related outcomes, of Medicaid expansion beneficiaries in Michigan.

**Methods:** This cross-sectional mixed-methods study of adult "Healthy Michigan Plan" (HMP) Medicaid expansion beneficiaries included qualitative interviews with a convenience sample of 67 beneficiaries enrolled for  $\geq 6$  months, a stratified random sample survey of 4,090 beneficiaries enrolled for  $\geq 12$  months; and Medicaid claims data. We examined unadjusted associations between demographic variables and awareness of dental coverage, self-reported dental care access, dental visits, and self-reported oral health; and between improved oral health and job seeking and job performance. Multivariate analysis examined factors associated with self-reported oral health improvement, adjusting for sociodemographic characteristics, prior health insurance, and having at least one dental visit claim.

**Results:** Among surveyed beneficiaries, 60 percent received  $\geq 1$  dental visit and 40 percent reported improved oral health. Adjusted odds ratios (aOR) for improved oral health were higher for African-American beneficiaries [aOR = 1.61; confidence interval (CI) = 1.28-2.03] and those previously uninsured for  $\geq 12$  months (aOR = 1.96; CI = 1.58-2.43). Beneficiaries reporting improved oral health were more likely to report improved job seeking (59.9 percent vs 51 percent;  $P = 0.04$ ) and job performance (76.1 percent vs 65.0 percent;  $P < 0.001$ ) due to HMP. Interviewees described previously unmet oral health needs, and treatments that improved oral health, functioning, appearance, confidence, and employability.

**Conclusion:** Michigan's Medicaid expansion contributed to self-reported improved oral health, which was associated with improved job outcomes. Policymakers should consider the importance of Medicaid dental coverage in

Innovation. Renuka Tipirneni is with University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation and University of Michigan Department of Internal Medicine. Sarah J. Clark is with University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation and University of Michigan Child Health Evaluation and Research Center. Adrienne N. Haggins is with University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation and University of Michigan Department of Emergency Medicine. Minal R. Patel is with University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation and University of Michigan School of Public Health. John Z. Ayanian is with University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, University of Michigan Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan School of Public Health, and University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

reducing oral health disparities and improving the health and socioeconomic well-being of low-income adults and communities when considering this optional benefit.

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## Introduction

Poor oral health, including dental caries, missing teeth, and periodontal disease, is a major health problem for low-income adults.<sup>1-4</sup> Tooth loss is almost exclusively concentrated among low-income individuals, and this problem disproportionately affects African Americans.<sup>5</sup> The prevalence of moderate to severe periodontitis is three times higher in the lowest compared to the highest income quartiles.<sup>3</sup> Poor oral health may lead to infection, ulcerations and abscesses; pain that restricts normal activities and sleep; and tooth loss that limits food choices and affects chewing efficiency, nutritional adequacy, speech, social interaction, physical appearance, and self-esteem.<sup>2</sup> Poor oral health also influences the ability to seek, obtain, and maintain employment.<sup>6,7</sup> A 2015 national survey found that 19 percent of low-income adults reported their mouth and teeth were in poor condition, and 29 percent reported the appearance of their mouth and teeth affects their ability to interview for a job.<sup>6</sup>

Oral health services are effective in preventing and controlling most oral health problems, including tooth loss.<sup>2</sup> Periodontal therapy can reduce medical costs and hospitalizations.<sup>8</sup> Yet, fewer than a third of adults with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) had a dental visit during the past year, in any year between 2006 and 2015.<sup>9</sup> There are persistent disparities in dentist visits for Black and Hispanic adults relative to non-Hispanic white adults.<sup>5</sup>

Medicaid is the primary source of dental coverage for low-income adults, although not all state programs provide “extensive” dental benefits.<sup>4,10-13</sup> Research indicates that when Medicaid covers adult dental care, dentists treat more publicly insured patients.<sup>14</sup> A 2012 study found that Medicaid dental coverage increased the probability of a dental visit, decreased the probability of forgoing oral health services, and improved oral health indicators such as untreated caries and broken or missing teeth.<sup>12</sup> Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act held the potential to reduce barriers to oral health care for millions of new adult beneficiaries.<sup>4,10-12</sup> Studies of the dental-related impact of Medicaid expansion have used national survey data to analyze differences in rates of dental visits in expansion and non-expansion states.<sup>10,13,15-17</sup> Some studies found greater use of adult dental services in Medicaid expansion states with at least “limited” adult Medicaid dental coverage.<sup>13,16</sup> Other studies found little change in dental visits.<sup>10,17</sup> A recent study of post-expansion outcomes reported a small increase in complete tooth loss associated with Medicaid expansion and suggested that this may be an indicator of increased access to care.<sup>17</sup>

Michigan expanded Medicaid with a Section 1115 waiver establishing the “Healthy Michigan Plan” (HMP), in April 2014.<sup>18</sup> In December 2020, 853,211 nonelderly adults were enrolled in HMP.<sup>19</sup> HMP health care coverage includes a “limited” dental benefit covering dental checkups, teeth cleaning, x-rays, fillings, tooth extractions,

and dentures, but does not cover root canals and crowns, for example.<sup>19</sup> At enrollment, HMP beneficiaries have fee-for-service coverage, including dental benefits. Within a few months, most enroll in, or are auto-assigned to Medicaid managed care plans. These plans manage or contract for management of the dental benefit.

There is a dearth of research on the individual-level experiences and impact of dental coverage available to Medicaid expansion beneficiaries on their oral health and functioning, including employment. Using data from Michigan's required waiver evaluation, the primary aim of this study is to examine beneficiaries' perspectives on the impact of HMP on their oral health. In secondary analyses, we explore mediators of improved oral health, including awareness of the HMP dental benefit, perceived access to dental services, and use of dental services. We also assess the association of improved oral health with daily functioning and employability.

## Methods

### Study design

Data for this mixed-methods study, which was conducted by the University of Michigan Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, came from three sources: 1) qualitative telephone interviews conducted between April and August 2015 with a convenience sample of HMP beneficiaries; 2) a telephone survey conducted in 2016 with a stratified random sample of individuals enrolled in HMP managed care; and 3) dental claims data from Michigan's state data warehouse. This federally mandated evaluation was deemed exempt by the University of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) institutional review boards.

### Qualitative sample and interviews

The qualitative 1-hour interviews were conducted in English or Spanish with 67 HMP beneficiaries from around the state who were enrolled in HMP for at least 6 months and had used a least one HMP-covered service. Purposive sampling selected interviewees reflecting diversity in gender, age, race/ethnicity, income, health conditions, and urban/rural residence. The interview guide included open-ended questions and probes, including a set that explored oral health care experiences: "Have you used your [HMP PLAN] insurance to get dental care?" (elicit examples: dental exams, teeth cleaning, extractions, other dental care?) If YES: "Would you say [HMP PLAN] has changed your ability to get dental care when you needed to? If YES: "How has it changed?" (elicit stories). In other open-ended questions, beneficiaries were asked to discuss

how having HMP has affected their health, how they take care of their health, their ability to work, and other experiences. They could interpret and describe these as they chose, including oral health and care.

### Qualitative data analysis

Qualitative interviews were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. Using an inductive approach to analysis, data were coded iteratively using standard qualitative analysis techniques and Dedoose software (<https://www.dedoose.com>).<sup>20</sup> An initial codebook was developed through review of the transcripts. Trained research assistants independently applied the codes and then collaboratively, along with the lead author, reviewed them while refining codes and generating additional codes that arose from the data. Any discrepancies were resolved by consensus. Saturation was determined when no new themes were emerging from the data. For this study, coded transcript excerpts involving oral health status and needs, awareness of HMP dental coverage, access to and use of dental care, daily functioning, and employment, were reviewed to derive themes and sample quotations.

### Survey sample, administration, and response rate

A stratified random sample of HMP beneficiaries was drawn monthly between January and October 2016. Stratification by state geographic region and percentage of the FPL (0-35 percent, 36-99 percent, and 100-133 percent) was allocated proportionately according to overall HMP enrollment. Eligibility criteria at the time of sampling were ages 19-64 years; enrolled in HMP for  $\geq 12$  months, with  $\geq 9$  months in a Medicaid managed care plan; language preference of English, Spanish or Arabic; and a complete Michigan address and telephone number in the state data warehouse. The analysis was conducted with the 4,090 respondents with complete survey data, for a weighted response rate of 53.7 percent. Further details of survey administration and participation have been previously published.<sup>21,22</sup>

### Quantitative measures

The primary outcome, self-reported oral health improvement, was assessed with one survey question: "Thinking about your dental health, since you enrolled in the Healthy Michigan Plan, has the health of your teeth and gums gotten better, stayed the same, or gotten worse?" While "don't know" was not a survey response option, if a respondent indicated to the interviewer that they "didn't know," this was coded as "don't know." We combined "stayed the same, gotten worse and don't know" and compared that grouping to "gotten better." Secondary outcomes were

measured with the following survey questions. Awareness of HMP dental coverage and perceptions of dental care access were assessed using these two survey items: “My Healthy Michigan Plan covers routine dental visits (Yes, No, Don’t know)” and “Would you say that your ability to get dental care through the Healthy Michigan Plan is better, worse or about the same, compared to before.” Three survey items assessed job outcomes: Out-of-work respondents who strongly agreed or agreed that “Having health insurance through the Healthy Michigan Plan has made me better able to look for a job”; employed respondents who responded “Yes” to “Has getting health insurance through the Healthy Michigan Plan helped you do a better job at work?”; and respondents with a recent job change who strongly agreed or agreed that “Having health insurance through the Healthy Michigan Plan helped me get a better job.” Standard demographic characteristics were drawn from the state data warehouse (gender, age, income) and the survey (race/ethnicity, health literacy, health insurance status prior to enrollment in HMP, and employment status). Medicaid administrative claims documentation of one or more dental visit during HMP enrollment was drawn from the state data warehouse. A more detailed description of survey measures is located in the Online Appendix.

### Quantitative data analysis

Descriptive statistics and Chi-squared tests were used to examine the unadjusted bivariate associations between: a) demographic variables and the primary outcome of self-reported improved oral health, with secondary outcomes of awareness of dental coverage, self-reported dental care access and dental visits; b) awareness of dental coverage and self-reported dental care access with self-reported improved oral health; and c) self-reported improved oral health with job seeking and job performance. We conducted multivariate logistic regression analysis to examine independent variables associated with the primary outcome of reporting oral health improvement. These independent variables included having any dental visit, sociodemographic characteristics, employment status, and prior health insurance. All analyses were conducted using Stata version 14.

## Results

### Survey respondent and interviewee characteristics

Among the 4,090 survey respondents, 51.6 percent were women; 40.0 percent were under age 35; 26.0 percent were over age 50 (Table 1). Most respondents (59.3 percent)

were non-Hispanic white and 25.9 percent were African American. Almost half (48.8 percent) were employed or self-employed. Three-fifths (59.6 percent) were uninsured for all 12 months prior to HMP enrollment; 80.2 percent had incomes below 100 percent of the FPL. Help reading health-related materials was needed by 16.8 percent of respondents. Among the 67 qualitative interview participants, 65.6 percent were women, 25.4 percent were below age 35, 50.7 percent were non-Hispanic white, 35.8 percent were African-American, and 61.2 percent had incomes below 100 percent FPL (Table 2).

### Awareness of HMP dental coverage

Roughly three-quarters of respondents (77.2 percent) were aware that HMP covers basic dental services (Table 1). Women were more likely to be aware of this dental coverage than men (80.8 percent vs. 73.2 percent;  $P < 0.001$ ). No other demographic characteristics were associated with awareness of HMP dental coverage. Among interviewed beneficiaries, most were aware of their HMP dental coverage, and some actively sought HMP coverage for the dental benefit.

“I could go to the VA for like some things. They don’t cover dental and none of that type of stuff ...So one reason I was trying to get on that [HMP] is to get my teeth fixed because my teeth are very bad, and I found out that I have a tumor in my mouth.” (Male, 55-64, 100%-133% FPL)

Some interviewees were unaware of their HMP dental coverage, or thought dental care was not an eligible service covered under HMP, based on experiences with other Medicaid programs.

“I thought since I was over 21, I didn’t have it [HMP dental coverage].” (Female, 35-44, 100%-133% FPL)

### Access to dental care

Among survey respondents, 46.1 percent reported improved access to dental care with HMP coverage (Table 1). Those who reported having no health insurance in the 12 months prior to HMP enrollment were more likely to report improved access to dental care (53.5 percent) than those insured all 12 months (32.6 percent) ( $P < 0.001$ ). Employed respondents were slightly more likely than unemployed respondents to report improved access to dental care since HMP enrollment (48.2 percent vs. 44.0 percent;  $P = 0.03$ ).

Most interviewees described access barriers that led to unmet oral health needs prior to obtaining HMP coverage.



**Table 1** Bivariate Associations of Healthy Michigan Voices Survey Respondent Characteristics with Awareness of HMP Dental Coverage, Perceived Access to Dental Care, and Dental Care Use

|                                           | All enrollees (total <i>N</i> = 4,090)<br><i>N</i> (weighted %) | Aware that HMP covers<br>dental care <sup>†</sup> (row %) | Improved access to<br>dental care <sup>‡</sup> (row %) | Any dental care<br>visit <sup>¶</sup> (row %) |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>All enrollees</b>                      |                                                                 | <b>77.2</b>                                               | <b>46.1</b>                                            | <b>59.5</b>                                   |
| <b>Gender</b>                             |                                                                 |                                                           |                                                        |                                               |
| Female                                    | 2,409 (51.6)                                                    | 80.8**                                                    | 47.6                                                   | 62.9**                                        |
| Male                                      | 1,681 (48.4)                                                    | 73.2                                                      | 44.4                                                   | 55.9                                          |
| <b>Age</b>                                |                                                                 |                                                           |                                                        |                                               |
| 19-34                                     | 1,303 (40.0)                                                    | 76.9                                                      | 44.4                                                   | 58.0                                          |
| 35-50                                     | 1,301 (34.0)                                                    | 76.7                                                      | 47.7                                                   | 61.0                                          |
| 51-64                                     | 1,486 (26.0)                                                    | 78.2                                                      | 46.4                                                   | 59.9                                          |
| <b>Race</b>                               |                                                                 |                                                           |                                                        |                                               |
| White                                     | 2,714 (59.3)                                                    | 77.2                                                      | 46.4                                                   | 61.1                                          |
| Black or African American                 | 800 (25.9)                                                      | 79.7                                                      | 46.5                                                   | 56.8                                          |
| Hispanic/Latino                           | 78 (2.1)                                                        | 70.5                                                      | 47.8                                                   | 55.2                                          |
| Other                                     | 448 (12.8)                                                      | 73.5                                                      | 44.9                                                   | 57.7                                          |
| <b>Employment status</b>                  |                                                                 |                                                           |                                                        |                                               |
| Employed/self-employed                    | 2,079 (48.8)                                                    | 77.9                                                      | 48.2*                                                  | 59.7                                          |
| Not employed                              | 2,011 (51.1)                                                    | 76.5                                                      | 44.0                                                   | 59.3                                          |
| <b>Insurance duration prior to HMP</b>    |                                                                 |                                                           |                                                        |                                               |
| All year                                  | 1,235 (30.9)                                                    | 77.7                                                      | 32.6**                                                 | 59.0*                                         |
| Some of the year                          | 374 (9.5)                                                       | 82.0                                                      | 48.0                                                   | 68.7                                          |
| None of the year                          | 2,374 (59.6)                                                    | 76.9                                                      | 53.5                                                   | 58.2                                          |
| <b>Help reading health materials</b>      |                                                                 |                                                           |                                                        |                                               |
| Sometimes/often/always                    | 641 (16.8)                                                      | 73.5                                                      | 42.6                                                   | 60.5                                          |
| Never/rarely                              | 3,444 (83.2)                                                    | 77.9                                                      | 46.7                                                   | 59.3                                          |
| <b>Income, % of federal poverty level</b> |                                                                 |                                                           |                                                        |                                               |
| 0-35%                                     | 1,600 (51.8)                                                    | 77.1                                                      | 46.8                                                   | 59.2                                          |
| 36-99%                                    | 1,450 (28.4)                                                    | 78.5                                                      | 46.3                                                   | 59.9                                          |
| ≥100%                                     | 1,040 (19.8)                                                    | 75.3                                                      | 43.6                                                   | 59.8                                          |

Source: Authors' analysis of 2016 Healthy Michigan Voices Survey and Medicaid claims data.

Note: Associations are tested using Pearson chi-square analysis.

\**P* < 0.05, \*\**P* < 0.001 indicates a significant association for the categorical variable based on Pearson's Chi-square test.

<sup>†</sup> Self-reported awareness of HMP coverage of dental services.

<sup>‡</sup> Self-reported improved access to dental care after enrollment compared to no change/worse.

<sup>¶</sup> Dental care use based on Medicaid claims data.

HMP, Healthy Michigan Plan.

"So my teeth really didn't get any real care while I was on Adult Benefits Waiver [pre-HMP program for adults 19-64 ≤35% FPL]...The most I could get was an antibiotic to keep the infection at bay." (Female, 55-64, <100% FPL)

"Before, I mean, I had to choose between paying rent or getting a tooth fixed...the main thing about it [HMP coverage] is most people can afford to get help now." (Male, 35-44, <100% FPL)

Some described previously relying on emergency rooms for care of dental infections and pain control.

Interviewees described how HMP dental coverage had improved their access to oral health care. Several reported that, prior to HMP enrollment, their only available option was having some or all their teeth pulled.

"...the [dental] infection got so bad that it virtually threatened my life. That wouldn't have happened [with HMP]...I called a buddy and I said, 'hey, I've got to get some antibiotics.'... So he took me to the ER...They admitted me immediately...you couldn't see where my chin ended and my chest started..." (Male, 55-64, <100% FPL)

"We couldn't get it on the Medicaid before. We could get a tooth pulled, but as far as dentures went, they wouldn't provide them. So I had lousy teeth for, I don't know, how many years. But since they switched over [to HMP], I was approved, and...I got my dentures on the way." (Male, 45-54, 100%-133% FPL)

Some described making difficult choices between paying for needed dental care and other life needs.

**Table 2** Characteristics of Healthy Michigan Plan Beneficiary\* Interviewees

|                                                | N  | %  |
|------------------------------------------------|----|----|
| <b>Beneficiary characteristics<sup>†</sup></b> |    |    |
| <b>Required monthly premium contributions</b>  |    |    |
| Yes (income 100-138% FPL) <sup>‡</sup>         | 22 | 33 |
| No (income <100% FPL) <sup>‡</sup>             | 41 | 61 |
| Unknown %FPL                                   | 4  | 6  |
| <b>Race/ethnicity</b>                          |    |    |
| African American                               | 24 | 36 |
| White, non-Latino/a                            | 34 | 51 |
| Latino/a                                       | 4  | 6  |
| Native American                                | 5  | 8  |
| <b>Gender</b>                                  |    |    |
| Male                                           | 23 | 34 |
| Female                                         | 44 | 66 |
| <b>Age group (years)</b>                       |    |    |
| 19-24                                          | 2  | 3  |
| 25-34                                          | 15 | 22 |
| 35-44                                          | 9  | 13 |
| 45-54                                          | 20 | 30 |
| 55-64                                          | 19 | 28 |
| 65 <sup>†</sup>                                | 2  | 3  |
| <b>Urban/rural<sup>§</sup></b>                 |    |    |
| Urban                                          | 53 | 79 |
| Rural                                          | 14 | 21 |

Source: Authors' interviews with Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) beneficiaries.

Note: Percentages within categories may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

\* HMP beneficiaries who had been enrolled in HMP for at least 6 months were interviewed between April and August 2015 (n = 67).

<sup>†</sup> Beneficiary characteristics are based on self-report at the time of the interview unless otherwise indicated.

<sup>‡</sup> The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Data Warehouse (MDHHS) confirmed income, HMP enrollment, and HMP required contributions or not.

<sup>†</sup> Two interviewees who turned 65 within 2 months of study recruitment were interviewed.

<sup>§</sup> Zip codes and county codes were linked to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service 2013 Influence Codes to classify regions into urban (codes 1-2), suburban (codes 3-7) and rural (codes 8-12) designations.

FPL, federal poverty level.

Several described experiencing continued access barriers after HMP enrollment, including a lack of dentists accepting HMP coverage.

“There’s not a whole lot of dentists around us that accept the [health plan]... for adults anyway...the only one that I know of is closed.” (Female, 19-24, <100% FPL)

The experiences of some interviewees highlight a limitation of the basic dental benefits provided by HMP.

“The first visit, of course, was the cleaning and the x-rays. She found a few cavities. She said, ‘I’d like for you to come back.’ So I did. They fixed my cavities. She said I need a new crown. My crown is cracked, but she said the crown is not covered under your plan. So I’m gambling. I’m just hoping that, you know, it doesn’t fall apart. But that would be \$1,000 to fix my crown.” (Female, 55-64, 100-133% FPL)

## Dental visits

Among survey respondents, 59.5 percent had at least one claim for a dental visit during their HMP enrollment (Table 1). Women were more likely to have had a dental visit (62.9 percent) than men (55.9 percent) ( $P < 0.001$ ). Beneficiaries who had health insurance for some of the year prior to HMP enrollment were more likely to have a dental visit during HMP enrollment (68.7 percent) than those who were either uninsured (58.2 percent) or insured (59.0 percent) in all 12 months prior to HMP enrollment ( $P < 0.05$ ).

Many interviewees described their use of dental services since HMP enrollment, receiving treatment for infections, dentures, fillings, and preventive dental care.

“Without it [HMP dental coverage], I wouldn’t go [get dental care]. I’ve had, I think, three fillings and one cleaning and it’s helped a lot because if I don’t take care of that stuff, then it’s just probably going to get worse. Having the insurance, you know, really helps keep my oral hygiene up.” (Male, 19-24, <100% FPL)

The interviews shed light on why some beneficiaries did not use dental care, pointing to factors not directly affected by dental coverage, such as a general fear of dental care.

“I haven’t been to the dentist yet, but I keep them brushed regularly. I’m scared of dentists....They like giving you shots in your face. I don’t like that. I don’t have any cavities, you know. No visual cavities.” (Male, 45-54, <100% FPL)

Other nonutilizers did not perceive an immediate need for dental care, especially those with dentures or few or no teeth.

“I have dentures...I really should [go to the dentist] you know, because they can find out, you know, mouth cancer and all that...I lost all my teeth when I was like 32.” (Female, 45-54, <100% FPL)

## Improved oral health and functioning

Among survey respondents, 39.5 percent reported improved oral health since HMP enrollment. Respondents

who were aware of their HMP dental coverage were more likely to report improved oral health since HMP enrollment than those who were unaware (47.3 percent vs. 13.3 percent;  $P < 0.001$ ) (Table 3). Those who reported better access to dental care under HMP were more likely to report improved oral health since HMP enrollment compared to those who did not (67.9 percent vs. 15.4 percent;  $P < 0.001$ ). Respondents who had at least one dental visit during their HMP enrollment were more likely than those with no dental visits to report improved oral health since HMP enrollment (56.5 percent vs. 14.4 percent;  $P < 0.001$ ).

In multivariate regression analyses of factors associated with reported improved oral health, respondents who had at least one dental visit were much more likely to report improved oral health following HMP enrollment [odds ratio (OR) 8.25 (6.65-10.24);  $P < 0.001$ ] (Table 3). After adjusting for dental visits and respondent characteristics, African Americans [OR 1.61 (1.28-2.03);  $P < 0.001$ ] and those who were uninsured all 12 months before enrollment [OR 1.96 (1.58-2.43);  $P < 0.001$ ] were more likely to report improved oral health (Table 3).

Figure 1 depicts the bivariate associations between reported improvement in oral health and reported employment-related outcomes because of having HMP health insurance, among survey respondents. Unemployed respondents who reported improved oral health were more likely to report that they were better able to look for a job because of having health insurance through HMP than those who reported no oral health improvement (59.9 percent vs. 51.1 percent;  $P = 0.04$ ). Employed respondents who reported improved oral health were more likely to report that having health insurance through HMP helped them to do a better job at work (76.1 percent vs. 65.0 percent;  $P < 0.001$ ). Among the subset of employed respondents with a recent job change ( $n = 433$ ), the association between reporting improved oral health and reporting that HMP coverage helped them to get a better job was not statistically significant (43.2 percent vs. 33.0 percent;  $P = 0.11$ ).

Interviewees often discussed their improved oral health and functioning after obtaining dental care with their HMP coverage. Several described how getting dentures had improved their ability to eat.

“I didn’t have no dental with Adult Benefits Waiver. My teeth were in really bad shape. Finally, with the Healthy Michigan Plan, I was able to get a full upper denture and lower partial. It’s a lot easier for me to eat now.” (Female, age 55-64, <100% FPL)

Many described how obtaining dentures through HMP had improved their appearance, self-confidence and sense

of physical and mental well-being, which enhanced their ability to look for a job and to do a better job at work.

My teeth were pretty bad...and they fixed it up fine, and now...I feel better when I am looking for a job...I feel better because my appearance has changed a lot. That has helped me a lot, physically and mentally.” (Male, age 45-54, <100% FPL)

“It’s funny because my boss said, ‘you need to smile.’ It’s like, ‘I’m trying.’ He said, ‘No, you’re not. You’re still putting your hand over your mouth. Put your hand down and smile.’ That takes a lot to get used to when you’re used to doing something for 15 years...My two front teeth were knocked down...I didn’t have a very pretty smile...I mean, it’s priceless that I can smile now.” (Female, 45-54, <100% FPL)

## Discussion

This mixed-methods study of Medicaid expansion in Michigan fills an important gap in the literature by describing and analyzing the predictors of self-reported improved oral health in Medicaid expansion enrollees and the association of improved oral health with employment-related outcomes among these low-income adults. Interviewees described how dental care and dentures obtained through their HMP coverage improved their oral health, functioning and appearance, and their confidence seeking and maintaining employment.

The study found that improved oral health was associated with having a dental visit during HMP enrollment, being African American and having been uninsured for the entire year prior to enrolling in HMP. This finding suggests that the Medicaid dental coverage may be an important mechanism to help address the wide and persistent disparities in both oral health and dental care visits between black and non-Hispanic white Americans.<sup>5</sup> We also identified continued unmet oral health care needs in the Medicaid population, resulting from ongoing barriers to care.<sup>2,4,6,10,11,16,17,23</sup> Some interviewees discussed their inability to afford recommended root canal and crown procedures not covered under HMP’s “limited” Medicaid dental coverage.<sup>10,11,15,23</sup> Some described lack of access to providers who accept Medicaid.<sup>10</sup> Other barriers included fear of dental care and the perception that people with no teeth do not need dental care. Some survey respondents were unaware that HMP covers dental care, suggesting an ongoing need for outreach and education to HMP beneficiaries about their dental coverage and the importance of preventive oral health care for maintaining oral and overall health.

The bidirectional relationship between oral health and other health-related conditions makes prevention and

**Table 3** Unadjusted and Adjusted Associations of Healthy Michigan Voices Survey Respondent Characteristics and Dental Care Visits with Improved Oral Health

| Independent variables                     | Improved oral health* (N = 3,930) |              |         |                                     |               |         |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------|
|                                           | Bivariate association             |              |         | Logistic regression                 |               |         |
|                                           | Percent                           | 95% CI       | P value | aOR                                 | 95% CI        | P value |
| <b>Any dental visit<sup>†</sup></b>       |                                   |              |         |                                     |               |         |
| No                                        | 14.4                              | (12.4, 16.8) | <0.001  | Reference                           |               |         |
| Yes                                       | 56.5                              | (54.0, 59.0) |         | 8.25                                | (6.65, 10.24) | <0.001  |
| <b>Gender</b>                             |                                   |              |         |                                     |               |         |
| Male                                      | 37.7                              | (34.8, 40.7) | 0.073   | Reference                           |               |         |
| Female                                    | 41.2                              | (38.8, 43.7) |         | 1.12                                | (0.92, 1.35)  | 0.249   |
| <b>Age</b>                                |                                   |              |         |                                     |               |         |
| 19-34                                     | 38.8                              | (35.6, 42.1) | 0.824   | Reference                           |               |         |
| 35-50                                     | 39.9                              | (36.6, 43.3) |         | 0.90                                | (0.72, 1.13)  | 0.381   |
| 51-64                                     | 40.1                              | (37.1, 43.3) |         | 0.99                                | (0.79, 1.23)  | 0.905   |
| <b>Race</b>                               |                                   |              |         |                                     |               |         |
| White                                     | 37.6                              | (35.3, 39.9) | 0.004   | Reference                           |               |         |
| Black or African American                 | 45.4                              | (41.1, 49.8) |         | 1.61                                | (1.28, 2.03)  | <0.001  |
| Hispanic/Latino                           | 30.6                              | (20.3, 43.3) |         | 0.65                                | (0.35, 1.22)  | 0.179   |
| Other                                     | 37.4                              | (32.1, 43.0) |         | 1.09                                | (0.81, 1.46)  | 0.565   |
| <b>Income, % of federal poverty level</b> |                                   |              |         |                                     |               |         |
| 0-35%                                     | 40.0                              | (37.0, 43.1) | 0.245   | Reference                           |               |         |
| 36-99%                                    | 40.7                              | (37.7, 43.8) |         | 1.11                                | (0.89, 1.38)  | 0.349   |
| ≥100%                                     | 36.6                              | (33.3, 40.0) |         | 0.90                                | (0.711, 1.15) | 0.405   |
| <b>Employment status</b>                  |                                   |              |         |                                     |               |         |
| Employed/self-employed                    | 40.1                              | (37.4, 42.8) | 0.587   | Reference                           |               |         |
| Not employed                              | 39.0                              | (36.3, 41.8) |         | 0.93                                | (0.76, 1.13)  | 0.483   |
| <b>Insurance duration prior to HMP</b>    |                                   |              |         |                                     |               |         |
| All of the year                           | 31.7                              | (28.5, 35.0) | <0.001  | Reference                           |               |         |
| Some of the year                          | 40.7                              | (34.5, 47.2) |         | 1.28                                | (0.92, 1.78)  | 0.137   |
| None of the year                          | 44.1                              | (41.5, 46.7) |         | 1.96                                | (1.58, 2.43)  | <0.001  |
| <b>Aware that HMP covers dental care</b>  |                                   |              |         | Not included in multivariable model |               |         |
| Yes                                       | 47.3                              | (45.1, 49.5) | <0.001  |                                     |               |         |
| No/do not know                            | 13.3                              | (10.8, 16.2) |         |                                     |               |         |
| <b>Improved access to dental care</b>     |                                   |              |         |                                     |               |         |
| Yes                                       | 67.9                              | (65.2, 70.6) | <0.001  |                                     |               |         |
| No                                        | 15.4                              | (13.5, 16.8) |         |                                     |               |         |

Source: Authors' analyses of 2016 Healthy Michigan Voices Survey and Medicaid claims data.

Note: Logistic regression model is adjusted for age, gender, race, income, employment status, and insurance duration in the 12 months before HMP enrollment.

\* Self-reported improved health of teeth and gums since enrollment in HMP, self-reported, compared to worse/same/do not know.

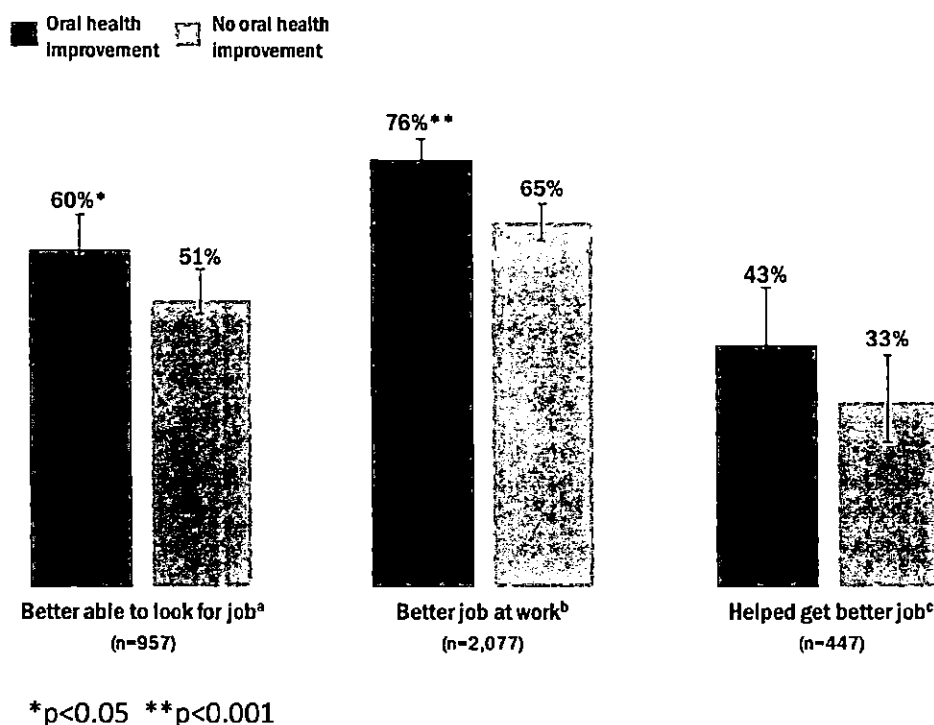
† Dental visits based on Medicaid claims data.

aOR, adjusted odds ratio; CI, confidence interval.

treatment of oral health disorders vitally important for reducing the risk of developing other health disorders and improving overall health, functioning and employment in individuals and populations.<sup>2,13,24</sup> Medicaid coverage supports opportunities in primary care and dental care settings to identify those at risk for oral disease, provide primary prevention to reduce risks, and offer needed treatment so that identified conditions are resolved or do not worsen.<sup>2</sup> Medicaid beneficiaries in Michigan and Oregon described how, prior to obtaining their Medicaid dental coverage, they had relied on emergency departments for

infection and pain control that did not resolve the underlying problem, because they could not afford dental care.<sup>25</sup> Future research should examine the impact of Medicaid dental coverage in Medicaid expansion states on preventable oral health-related emergency department use, with implications for reducing exposure to pain medications and cost savings.<sup>25,26</sup>

This study has several limitations and strengths. Study data are cross-sectional; thus, our analyses provide associations rather than causal inferences. We are not able to disaggregate beneficiaries' perceptions of the specific benefits



**Figure 1** Associations between reported improved oral health and reported employment related outcomes because of having HMP health insurance, among Healthy Michigan Voices survey respondents.

Source: Authors' analysis of 2016 Healthy Michigan Voices Survey data. Notes: *N* indicates the total number of respondents who answered the question. <sup>a</sup>Out of work respondents who strongly agreed or agreed that "Having health insurance through the Healthy Michigan Plan has made me better able to look for a job" (Overall proportion = 54.5 percent). <sup>b</sup>Employed respondents who responded "Yes" to the question, "Has getting health insurance through the Healthy Michigan Plan helped you do a better job at work?" (overall proportion = 69.4 percent). <sup>c</sup>Respondents with a recent job change who strongly agreed or agreed that "Having health insurance through the Healthy Michigan Plan helped me get a better job" (overall proportion = 36.9 percent). [Color figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

of dental coverage versus other aspects of their HMP health care coverage. Additionally, we do not have information on whether HMP beneficiaries had dental coverage prior to enrolling in HMP. Dental care is listed as provided by the beneficiary's health plan in HMP materials. Interviewees who were aware of their dental coverage generally discussed dental coverage as integral to HMP. The survey response rate of 53.7 percent creates the possibility of non-response bias, but is high relative to other studies of low-income and Medicaid populations.<sup>27</sup> Survey and interview data were based on self-report. To reduce social desirability bias, the team emphasized its independent evaluator role, and the confidentiality of responses.<sup>21</sup> Perceived oral health and dental care needs may influence dental care-seeking behavior.<sup>28</sup> Beneficiaries with few or no teeth, including some with dentures, and those with good perceived oral health may not think they need dental care.<sup>23,28</sup> Conversely, an oral health visit may reveal previously undiagnosed oral health problems and worsen perceived oral health. These beliefs may have affected perceived

improvements in dental care access and oral health. The lack of alternative data sets that resolve this limitation has been noted elsewhere.<sup>23</sup>

This study also has several strengths. The existing literature on the impact of Medicaid expansion has focused largely on cross-state comparisons of dental care utilization.<sup>10,13,15-17</sup> Our mixed-methods study uses survey and in-depth interview data and claims data to provide an enriched picture of the impact of Medicaid expansion dental coverage on oral health, from the perspectives of individual beneficiaries. To our knowledge, this study contributes a distinctive exploration of the association between reported improved oral health and reported job outcomes related to expanded Medicaid coverage. In qualitative interview data, HMP beneficiaries described *how and why* their improved oral health improved their job seeking and performance. Finally, our use of administrative claims data to measure dental care visits avoids potential social desirability bias and recall bias that could result in overestimation or underestimation of self-reported dental visits.<sup>29</sup>

In summary, this study found that Michigan's Medicaid expansion contributed to perceived improved oral health for beneficiaries, with implications for improved daily functioning, including employment. Our findings suggest the importance of Medicaid dental coverage for reducing racial/ethnic and gender disparities in oral health care use and oral health among low-income adults. Dental care is an optional service for adults under Medicaid. As policymakers consider changes to the scope of, and eligibility for, Medicaid services, it is important to consider the impact of dental coverage on access to dental care and oral health for low-income individuals and communities. Policies that reduce, restrict, or eliminate Medicaid dental coverage may reverse demonstrated and potential improvements in oral health care use, oral and general health and functioning, and employability among low-income people.<sup>30</sup> Improved oral health is an important contributor to the health, social and economic well-being of Medicaid beneficiaries and their communities.

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## Conflict of interest

There are no other financial or other conflicts of interest.

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of the article.

### Appendix S1: Supporting information

**How to cite this article:** Kieffer EC, Goold SD, Buchmueller T, et al. Beneficiaries' perspectives on improved oral health and its mediators after Medicaid expansion in Michigan: a mixed methods study. *J Public Health Dent.* 2021;1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jphd.12447>



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May 3, 2021

Senator Gary Daniels, Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
State House Rm Senate Chamber  
107 N. Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Email: [Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us); [John.Reagan111@gmail.com](mailto:John.Reagan111@gmail.com);  
[Lou.Dallesandro@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Lou.Dallesandro@leg.state.nh.us); [Chuck.Morse@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Chuck.Morse@leg.state.nh.us); [Bob.Giuda@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Bob.Giuda@leg.state.nh.us);  
[Cindy.Rosenwald@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Cindy.Rosenwald@leg.state.nh.us); [Erin.Hennessey@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Erin.Hennessey@leg.state.nh.us);  
[debra.martone@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:debra.martone@leg.state.nh.us)

RE: HB 1 and HB 2

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for your continued support of community health centers and the approximately 120,000 Granite Staters our organizations serve across New Hampshire. On behalf of Mid-state Health Center, we urge our senators to overcome critical gaps in the House budget proposal by providing critical investments in the NH State Loan Repayment Program, Primary Care Contracts, and Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits.

Mid-State Health Center has 12,000 patients and conducts over 45,000 visits per year. We provide an array of services including medical, dental, behavioral health, substance use treatment, infusion, and imaging irrespective of an individual's ability to pay.

### **1. Investment in the State Loan Repayment Program (7965 Rural Health and Primary Care)**

The State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) provides partial payment towards educational loans of health care professionals in exchange for a commitment to serve in a medically underserved area. The Program is an invaluable recruitment tool for community health centers, community mental health centers, critical access hospitals, and other community-based health care providers. In 2019, the legislature and Governor overwhelmingly supported a non-lapsing \$6.5 million appropriation to the State Loan Repayment Program because of the health care workforce shortage, which has only grown because of the pandemic. The funds were not available for DHHS to encumber until November 2019 because the budget did not become law until late September 2019. In April 2020, \$4 million was removed from the State Loan Repayment Program to pay for the State's COVID response. Additionally, the Division of Public Health could not send any SLRP contracts through the Governor and Council process because of the focus on the pandemic.





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After the legislature increased support to the SLRP, DHHS worked with health care organizations to determine how to maximize the additional funding and address the health care needs of Granite State residents. The priorities identified included expanding the program to private practice dentists, behavioral health staff, and registered nurses. It is critical for the community health centers and other eligible organizations to know if we can advise our current staff and potential applicants to apply for this program and whether the expansion of the providers eligible will happen. There should be approximately \$5.1 million left from the 2019 appropriation in that budget line. This funding is more critical than ever to help health care organizations like ours address the health care workforce shortage facing our state.

## **2. Primary Care Contracts (5190 Maternal and Child Health)**

The primary care contracts within the Division of Public Health help us increase access to health care services and ensure quality outcomes in the communities we serve. We utilize these funds to deliver primary and preventative care to low-income and underinsured pregnant women, newborns, adolescents, and elderly individuals and to treat acute and chronic health conditions like depression, diabetes, coronary artery disease, asthma, and chronic oral health infections. These dollars are an investment for patients to improve their own clinical outcomes and avoid more costly and serious health issues in the future.

Patients who benefit from the primary care contracts often experience barriers to accessing health care. The services and work funded by the primary care contracts are not paid for by Medicaid, nor are they redundant to any state funding or payments the health centers receive from commercial insurance or other grants. Our primary care contract requires us to meet quality measures to ensure that these services are saving the state money and represent a good investment. A reduction to primary care contract funds would increase barriers to care for our patients whose health and wellness are reliant on these services.

## **3. Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit**

Lack of access to oral health care is devastating to a person's overall health, leading to a host of problems with the heart and other organs; negatively impacting a patient's health and employability related to appearance and pain management issues, and - as more published evidence is showing us - exacerbating the substance use and opioid crises across the nation.<sup>1</sup> What is most tragic, and where the solution lies, is that these irreversible and painful oral health complications could have been avoided with regular prophylaxis and restorative care.

Currently, New Hampshire's Medicaid adult dental benefit is limited to treating infection and severe pain, leaving the underlying oral health problems to go unaddressed and gradually worsen. Expanding the adult Medicaid dental benefit to include preventive services will allow these patients to get their oral health needs on track, which plays a big role in their mental health and overall quality of life. A growing body of research demonstrates that providing Medicaid

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<sup>1</sup> "Opioid Crisis." [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org), [www.ada.org/en/advocacy/advocacy-issues/opioid-crisis](http://www.ada.org/en/advocacy/advocacy-issues/opioid-crisis).



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dental health coverage to parents has a positive impact on children on Medicaid and CHIP receiving recommended dental care. The “spillover effects” of Medicaid adult dental service expansions are shown to benefit the entire family.<sup>2</sup> As discussed in the workgroup on the adult Medicaid dental benefit, it is critical to establish appropriate capitated rates that incentivize dentists throughout the state to open their doors for Medicaid patients. Community health centers cannot do it alone. We are heartened to see that New Hampshire is moving in the right direction, with surging engagement and collaboration among health providers, government agencies, and the larger community to “put the mouth back in the body.”

The Mid-State team are pleased to be able to assist our patients and community members through the pandemic and are grateful for the opportunity to demonstrate the value of these programs to keep our doors open and our patients healthy. We look forward to working together with our legislators to strengthen our health care system as we look ahead to life after the pandemic. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert J. MacLeod  
CEO

---

<sup>2</sup> “Research Update: A Spotlight on Children’s Oral Health.” Center for Children and Families, 10 May 2019, [ccf.georgetown.edu/2019/05/10/research-update-a-spotlight-on-childrens-oral-health/](http://ccf.georgetown.edu/2019/05/10/research-update-a-spotlight-on-childrens-oral-health/). Accessed 16 Oct. 2019.

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** LeBlanc, Ashley <ashley.leblanc@genesishcc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:29 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 Comments

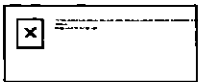
My name is Ashley LeBlanc and I am the administrator of Pleasant View Center, a skilled nursing facility in Concord, NH. I am a New Hampshire native and fell into the skilled nursing field during college. After I graduated from UNH, I began my journey to get my administrators license. Currently, I employ 160 people, and my facility is capable of serving 174 residents. With the pandemic, our census has been reduced to 135 residents. Since I joined the industry, I have worked in 6 different facilities. One of the most consistent and pervasive issues I have seen is funding. It impacts all aspects of care and quality.

New Hampshire was the only New England state to not raise daily Medicaid rates during the pandemic. We were only able to survive the pandemic because of federal assistance, much of which came from the state, and the 6.2% in Medicaid rate increases that occurred in the last budget. Those rate increases helped but they did not make up for years of underfunding. They cannot be followed by no rate increases whatsoever as we recover from this pandemic. Our elders deserve more and the heroes that we have been applauding on the front lines deserve for the state to put their money where their mouth is. We desperately need more funding. Please raise Medicaid rates, and also support appropriating American Rescue Plan Act dollars for each licensed bed in order to save us from bankruptcy.

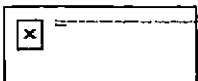
Thank you for your time.

--

Ashley LeBlanc, NHA  
Center Executive Director  
Pleasant View Center  
[ashley.leblanc@genesishcc.com](mailto:ashley.leblanc@genesishcc.com)



How did we do? We would love to hear your feedback and thoughts on our center. Give us a Google Review! [Click here](#)



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## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Karl Kaiser <karlkaiser10@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:33 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Oppose HB1 and HB2

I strongly oppose these bills decreasing support of public education and ultimately further increasing the local tax bill and hitting hard in particular poor towns.

Karl Kaiser, 180 Old Town Farm Rd. Peterborough, NH 03458

## **Debra Martone**

---

**From:** Jones, Anthony <anthony.jones3@genesishcc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:34 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Lauren Murray; bwilliams@nhhca.org  
**Subject:** NH Senate HB 1

Good morning,

My name is Anthony Jones and I am the administrator of Mineral Springs, a skilled nursing facility in North Conway, NH. I employ 74 people, and my facility is capable of serving 100 residents. The pandemic has created many hardships for centers and their staff as the cost of operation quickly outpaced our ability to generate revenue. Complicating the cost of operation further was the reduction in census many of us felt obligated to implement as we created admission observation wings to quarantine new admits and any residents with COVID symptoms. These wings effectively cut the bed capacity of that wing in half as these observation rooms needed to be single occupancy to protect our vulnerable patients and residents from a possible outbreak.

In addition, staffing and the ability to adequately compensate our frontline healthcare workers is an issue. Without staff we cannot increase census, generate additional revenue, or begin to adjust wages to show these caring heroes how much we appreciate their sacrifice.

And they are heroes as I see their struggles, day in and day out. The sacrifices my staff make to ensure our residents are cared for is written on their faces as they pick up shift after shift and work long hours to provide the same type of care they would want their loved one to receive. They do it with compassion, love, and often at the expense of time with their own families.

The last 18 months have taught those of us in long term care many important and valuable lessons. None more important than our frontline staff are what keep our residents and patients healthy, happy, and thriving. It's time that we honor their commitment and sacrifice as we take care of them and allow them to better take care of their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion.

Respectfully,

***Anthony Jones***  
***Center Executive Director***  
***Mineral Springs***  
***p. 603-356-7294***  
***c. 603-307-4174***  
***anthony.jones3@genesishcc.com***  
***Mineral Springs Center Website***



Good Afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Maureen Meletis. I am an advocate with the Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter which currently supports 26,000 people living with Alzheimer's in the granite state.

I am here today to ask you to support:

- The Governor's budget request to include critical increases in three Medicaid services under the choices for independence waiver - personal care, homemaker and case management
- invest in adult medical day services by adding 4 million to the state budget
- restore the Governor's funding for senior centers to provide essential services

As a former caregiver for my mother who suffered from Alzheimer's for over 10 years, I know how valuable these outside supports are.

Over 57,000 individuals in New Hampshire are a caregiver to a loved one living with Alzheimer's, creating a total of 82 million hours of unpaid care for a total value of \$1.5 Billion. These families need your help to continue to support their loved ones that have chosen to remain in their own homes while relying on assistance from home care providers. 80% of older adults with Alzheimer's /dementia receive help with a daily personal care activity such as bathing, dressing, grooming. Unfortunately, services that could help these families like the CFI program have been underfunded for years with the healthcare workforce continuing to decline. We need to continue to help this population of Granite Staters especially in the rural sections of our state that face challenges daily with lack of support due most recently due to COVID 19.

Many senior centers have not been able to provide in person services and programs due to limited staff and volunteers, putting additional pressure on loved ones to provide the necessary services. Isolation over the past 14 months has been a struggle not just for the elderly population but for all that have been living in this pandemic. As insensitive as it may sound, I am thankful that my Mother is not living during this pandemic due to the additional strain it has caused on family caregivers due to the reduction of outside support and resources, but more importantly the lack of one on one family time with family members.

I hope you will provide our families with the support they need to keep their loved ones at home.

Thank you for your time today.

Maureen E. Meletis  
14 Hunter Drive  
Derry, NH

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Howe, Teale <teale.howe@genesishcc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:39 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Senete Finance at 1pm

Hello,

My name is Teale Howe, I am the CED at Rochester Manor, a skilled nursing facility in Rochester NH. I employ 100 people and my facility is capable of serving 108 residents.

With the pandemic, our census has been reduced to 88 residents. Our ability to recover census is complicated by the fact that we are required to keep space open to quarantine those who might have COVID-19, which could otherwise serve 15-20 residents.

New Hampshire was the only New England state to not raise daily Medicaid rates during the pandemic. We would not have made it this far without federal assistance, much of which came from the state, and the 6.2% in Medicaid rate increases that occurred in the last budget. Those rate increases were a down payment on years of underfunding. They cannot be followed by no rate increases whatsoever as we recover from this pandemic. Please raise Medicaid rates, and also support appropriating American Rescue Plan Act dollars for each licensed bed in order to save us from bankruptcy.

Teale Howe, NHA  
Executive Director  
Regional Executive Director  
Rochester Manor  
(603) 332 7711

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Kathryn Kindopp <kkindopp@co.cheshire.nh.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:45 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1

My name is Kathryn Kindopp, the administrator of Maplewood of Cheshire County. When fully staffed, I employ over 300 staff and oversee a 150 bed licensed skilled nursing facility plus a 20 apt assisted living facility on this Cheshire county property.

Due in part to construction, but more so due to the pandemic, my census has dropped to just over 70% occupancy. Our construction project will soon be completed, and we could serve an additional 43 residents *IF* we could hire sufficient staff...*IF* Medicaid rates could support paying our staff not only a living wage, but a competitive wage considering the challenging work (and deadly work given statistics from this past year) as compared to other jobs we compete with.

The years we have sustained operations with lack of Medicaid funding commensurate with the actual cost of caring for our most vulnerable along with the known shortage of trained nurses and LNA's, left nursing facilities extraordinarily vulnerable as the pandemic raced across our nation and ravaged long term care operations in particular.

In our state, the county homes, along with those members of the New Hampshire Health Care Association and the Catholic Charities combined our numbers and found that on average, our current operations are costing us \$30/per bed/per day more to care for our residents at this moment in time. This is not sustainable for any provider; and there are simply not enough resources or personnel to care for our most needy in home situations. Many of my residents have no family or community support; there is no option to discharge to a community.

Nursing homes need a significant rate increase to weather this current storm and care for our most vulnerable elders - the minor increase in rates from the last budget/biennium were only a small acknowledgment of past underfunding. Much cost-shifting has fallen on the backs of the county taxes to cover for LTCSS; it's time to see the state support a funding increase for Medicaid rates before you have constituents unable to have their needs met despite everyone's best efforts in home based settings.

Thank-you for your consideration,

Kathryn Kindopp, Nursing Home Administrator

Kathryn Kindopp, B.Sc.P.T., NHA  
Administrator, Maplewood Nursing Home  
201 River Road  
Westmoreland, NH, 03467  
(603)399-7302  
[www.co.cheshire.nh.us](http://www.co.cheshire.nh.us)

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Margaret Jernstedt <Margaret.Jernstedt@Comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:51 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Chuck Morse; Cindy.Rosenwaldd@leg.state.nh.us; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Lou D'Allesandro; Bob Giuda; Erin Hennessey  
**Subject:** HB 544

Honorable Senators serving on the Finance Committee of the NH Senate:

Thank you for your service. I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 544 as a part of HB2 or as a part of any legislation in the State of NH. This is a very troubling bill, and it does not serve the needs of the children or adults in this state. I am a retired first grade teacher, and we know how important it is for all people to learn about our history and to learn about the constitutional protections afforded to all citizens in our first amendment. Life long learning is essential, and for the protection of our service providers in our police, schools, businesses, and public services we need a well educated work force and citizenry.

HB 544 does not meet the needs of NH people, and it undermines the budget you are serving to create. I urge you to oppose HB 544.

Thank you again for your service,

Margaret Jernstedt

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Eileen Jones <concordeileen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:53 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB2

I am opposed to this bill due to the inclusion of HB 544. I am strongly opposed to HB 544. Wherever we are in current affairs, we must be cognizant of our past history. To understand the ramifications of actions on all individuals, we must be able to have a dialogue with individuals of all viewpoints. HB 544 would be detrimental to understanding and caring about our future for all.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Eileen Jones  
Concord NH 03301

Sent from my iPad

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Patricia T. Glowa <Patricia.T.Glowa@hitchcock.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:54 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; 'CC:'  
**Cc:** 'Michael Padmore'  
**Subject:** HB 2 and "divisive concepts"

Dear Finance Committee members and Governor Sununu –

I write to strenuously urge you to oppose HB 2. The idea that discussing “divisive concepts” should be illegal is a grave threat to our democracy. In addition, it threatens my ability as a physician to provide excellent care to my patients. The first amendment to the Constitution guarantees free speech, precisely because we need the ability to discuss uncomfortable ideas and history. We must be able to raise difficult issues of inequalities in our society based on race, sex, ethnic identities, religion, and other categories. These inequities have resulted in health disparities that we, as physicians, have an obligation to address. We need to be able to study these problems and arrive at evidence-based approaches to improve the health status of all of our citizens. I hope you will oppose this bill, and this concept. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to learning the outcome of your votes.

Sincerely,

Patricia T. Glowa, MD

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Forrence, Heidi <heidi.forrence@genesishcc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:55 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 comment

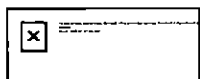
Hello,

My name is Heidi Forrence, I am the administrator of Hackett Hill Genesis Healthcare, I employ over 100 staff members and my facility services 70 residents, both short term and long term care. I am writing to not only request, but to beg for increased state funding. As a CED I see the daily struggle nursing facilities are faced with and more so since the pandemic. Why are the only state in New England that did not receive a raise in medicaid rates during the pandemic? I wonder this every day, and ultimately see the staff and patients suffering from this choice. We are taking care of HUMANS, how can we possibly continue to do so with the minimal funding we have now? Think about the person you love the most right now, how would you like them to be taken care of? Minimal state funding impacts the care provided indirectly by staffing levels, costs of supplies and daily expenses to operate a center, that again is caring for HUMANS. I beg that you recognize the continued negative impact that will not go away until state funding is increased. I understand there are a lot of needs and everyone is asking for increased funding, but please look at the market we serve and the jobs that these caregivers have that ruin them physically and mentally as we cannot afford to hire more staff because of the current funding rate. This is not a business that the state or the world can go without, who will care for all of these people who cannot be home safely if funding is not increased? no one. Please leave today thinking about how you would want your loved ones to be cared for and really think about why we are asking what we are asking for.

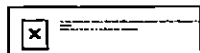
Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

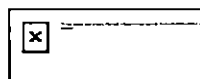
--  
Heidi Forrence  
Center Executive Director  
Hackett Hill Genesis Healthcare  
191 Hackett Hill Road  
Manchester, NH 03102  
(P) 603-668-8161 (F) 603-218-0432



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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Patrick Lyons <PLyons@jaffreyrnc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:59 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Advocating for Skilled Care in NH  
  
**Importance:** High

My name is Patrick Lyons and I am the administrator of Jaffrey Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, a skilled nursing facility in Jaffrey, NH. I employ 70 people, and my facility is capable of serving 83 residents. Our ability to recover census is complicated by the fact that we are required to keep space open to quarantine those who might have COVID-19, which could otherwise serve the full 83 residents.

New Hampshire was the only New England state to not raise daily Medicaid rates during the pandemic, a pandemic where JRNC had only two COVID-19 cases in the entire year from the onset of the pandemic. We would not have made it this far without federal assistance, much of which came from the state, and the 6.2% in Medicaid rate increases that occurred in the last budget. Those rate increases were a down payment on years of underfunding. They cannot be followed by no rate increases whatsoever as we recover from this pandemic. Please raise Medicaid rates, and also support appropriating American Rescue Plan Act dollars for each licensed bed in order to save us from bankruptcy.

Patrick Lyons, MHA, NHA  
Administrator  
Jaffrey Rehabilitation and Nursing Center  
20 Plantation Drive  
Jaffrey, NH 03452  
603-532-8762



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Cushing, Gail <gail.cushing@genesishcc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:06 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** The message we send to NH Elders

My name is Gail Cushing, I am the administrator of Applewood, a skilled nursing facility in Winchester NH. I employ just shy of 100 people, and my facility is capable of serving 72 residents. My center occupancy is typically 69-71, but with the pandemic we are averaging 66. Our ability to recover census is complicated by the fact that we are required to keep space open to quarantine those who might have COVID-19, which could otherwise serve 72 residents. New Hampshire was the only New England state to not raise daily Medicaid rates during the pandemic. We would not have made it this far without federal assistance, much of which came from the state, and the 6.2% in Medicaid rate increases that occurred in the last budget. Those rate increases were a down payment on years of underfunding. They cannot be followed by no rate increases whatsoever as we recover from this pandemic. Please raise Medicaid rates, and also support appropriating American Rescue Plan Act dollars for each licensed bed in order to save us from bankruptcy.

Gail Cushing, RN, BSN, NHA  
Center Executive Director  
Applewood Center  
8 Snow Rd  
Winchester NH 03470  
603-239-6355

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Alyssa Antman <alyssa.antman2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:12 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov  
**Subject:** ORAL TESTIMONY: Protect New Hampshire's Family Planning Program

Good morning Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for your time today in hearing my testimony. My name is Alyssa Antman and I am a resident of Concord and a patient of the Equality Health Center here in opposition to HB 2. The language in this budget defunds essential reproductive health care providers during a pandemic. If this budget were to become law, thousands of Granite Staters like me would be at risk of losing access to the critical, lifesaving health care that we rely on. I want to share my experience receiving this critical care.

I went to Equality Health Center earlier this year for a fairly routine change in my birth control, an intrauterine device, commonly known as an IUD. When I entered through the doorway, I was immediately greeted and welcomed. They explained my options if my insurance was not able to cover the cost, which alleviated some of my worries and explained the removal process. Typically, IUDs are removed in a simple procedure. For me, however, that was not the case. After they realized they wouldn't be able to remove my IUD for this appointment, they took me to a separate room to counsel me through the next steps, which eased my concerns and prepared me for what was to come. I came back for my second appointment a week later. For such an intimate experience, I am forever grateful for the care that I received that day. I will spare you the details, but the removal process was extremely painful and each second was excruciatingly long. Because of COVID, I was unable to have my partner in the room with me. However, throughout the procedure, I was lucky enough to have a counselor by my side, quite literally, holding my hand, making me laugh, and making sure I was relaxed and comfortable. The providers checked in and talked with me through every step of the way. They were even able to insert another IUD as well. In that same appointment, I was also given a cancer screening. Because of my family history, there has always been an increased risk for me, so being able to access that service meant I was taking the necessary preventative steps. I don't know what I would have done without access to healthcare from reproductive health centers like Equality Health Center.

By requiring an unnecessary physical and financial separation, this budget is designed to force reproductive health care providers out of the program. Blocking funding for reproductive health providers could result in patients like myself delaying or going without necessary care. I cannot express enough gratitude that I received both birth control and a PAP smear in a compassionate, non-judgmental environment. We should all be able to agree that funding preventative services such as cancer screenings and birth control is good for the health of our communities and the overall economy. We should be working on expanding access to these services, not stripping them away. Thank you for your time and I strongly urge you to oppose HB 2.

Alyssa Antman  
Concord NH  
6039735133

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Stevens, Joanna <joanna.stevens@genesishcc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:12 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone; Brendan Williams (bwilliams@nhhca.org); Murray, Lauren  
**Subject:** Public Hearing HB1 Comments

My name is Joanna Stevens, I am the administrator of Country Village Center in Lancaster NH. Country Village is a skilled nursing facility employing approximately 100 individuals and serving a capacity of 86 Residents. The Covid-19 Pandemic reduced our census to 47 in February. We are working towards recovery and settling into whatever the new normal for our industry is. Our census today is at 69, growth is complicated by the need to utilize rooms that would otherwise be full as private spaces to quarantine new residents who may have Covid-19.

Our story is similar to many others: costs are up, revenue is down, and finding skilled workers to take care of those we serve is challenging and comes at significant cost. In our center alone costs are up 58%, wages 34% this will create a \$1,000,000 + expense over the next year all while revenue has decreased by 27% from where we were pre-pandemic. Not factored in is the fact that we are located in an extremely rural part of the state which limits our resources even more.

I have worked in this field for the past 15 years and can not imagine doing anything else. We are tasked with taking care of some of the most vulnerable people in the state, some who have no family and no other place to turn. With operating costs up and revenue down additional funding is needed to continue to provide the high standard of quality care that myself and my staff take pride in. Increased funding is paramount to not only our recovery, but the successful recovery of our industry.

*Joanna Stevens*

**Center Executive Director**

Country Village Center

91 Country Village Rd

Lancaster, NH 03584

(603) 788-2096 Extension 3003

Email: [Joanna.Stevens@GenesisHCC.com](mailto:Joanna.Stevens@GenesisHCC.com)

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Jacquelyne Weatherspoon <jacquelynekweatherspoon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:15 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB2

Dear Committee Members,

With all due respect, do you have the right to tell folks what to teach, learn or understand. This is why I respect so many of your colleagues who were in support of public kindergarten. It took a Democratifc Governor to talk about education. We do not want NH students to feel they are not prepared for the challenges of an ever changing world, or the burdens we will leave them. Why should we leave them to right the wrongs, we have made. This bill has no place in New Hampshire, this is one reason, NH kids leave, this is why our aging population has such a tax burden.

"You have to be carefully taught"....Richard Rogers, The Sound of Music.

I thank you for listening.

The Hon. Jacquelyne K. Weatherspoon,  
Former Member, NH House of Representatives  
Election Law Committee,  
1996-2002

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Labrie, Nicholas <nicholas.labrie@genesishcc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:17 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone; bwilliams@nhhca.org  
**Subject:** NH Nursing Home Funding

Good morning,

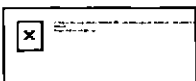
My name is Nicholas Labrie and I am a licensed Administrator at the Genesis Pheasant Wood Center in Peterborough NH. Our facility employees 120 people, and my facility is licensed to serve 99 residents. With this pandemic, our census has been reduced by 20-25%. Our ability to recover census is complicated by the fact that we are required to have an "Admission Observation Unit" which keeps space open within our center to accommodate individuals who need to quarantine as they may have COVID 19. The size of this AOU fluctuates based on need however has reduced our capacity greatly when accepting individuals who require our services.

New Hampshire was the only New England state to not raise daily Medicaid rates during the pandemic. We would not have made it this far without federal assistance, much of which came from the state, and the 6.2% in Medicaid rate increases that occurred in the last budget. Those rate increases were a down payment on years of underfunding. They cannot be followed by no rate increases whatsoever as we recover from this pandemic. Please raise Medicaid rates, and also support appropriating American Rescue Plan Act dollars for each licensed bed in order to save us from bankruptcy.

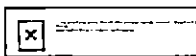
Sincerely,

Nicholas Labrie

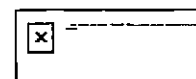
--  
Nicholas Labrie LNHA, MPH  
Center Executive Director  
Pheasant Wood Center  
50 Pheasant Road, Peterborough, NH 03458  
603-924-7267 (Office) 603-924-7885 (Fax)



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Hi Josh, I am not sure what happened but I thought the hearing was at 1:00 pm. I guess I missed it. If there is any way to submit written testimony, here it is.

Good afternoon,

My name is Galen Spiegler. First, I would like to thank you for taking the time to listen to me and my fellow granite staters. I live with Cerebral palsy, which is a condition that affects my ability to get out of bed, eat, and go to the bathroom, among other things. These challenges are the reason why I require people to come into my home three times a day, to assist me with my personal care. The importance of this work is often trivialized by the false narrative that people who live with disabilities just live with their parents. Have no job. No partner. No family of their own. I ask you, is that a life? I would say no. In about a week, I will be starting graduate school where I will earn my master's degree in clinical psychology with a focus on Disability. I want to work with veterans and other people and help them learn how to manage their mental and sexual health while having a disability. I cannot do this necessary work if I don't have the staff to assist me in my home. Right now the Medicaid reimbursement rate is lower than almost any other job would pay. People can make a higher hourly wage working at Mcdonald's than they can help me with vital care that allows me to have a job, have a wife, have kids, have a dog, and have a house. In general, have a life. Without this help, I face the very real possibility of living in a nursing home. Please raise the Medicaid reimbursement rate for home health care workers so that people like me have access to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

On Mon, May 3, 2021 at 1:51 PM Josh Elliott <[josh.elliott@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:josh.elliott@leg.state.nh.us)> wrote:

You are all set for tomorrow. I don't know when your name will be called during the hearing, but it will be called.

Best,  
Josh

Josh Elliott  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
New Hampshire State Senate  
State House, Room 302  
Concord, NH 03301  
(o) 603-271-6931

**From:** Galen Spiegler <[galenspi@gmail.com](mailto:galenspi@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 1:50 PM  
**To:** Josh Elliott <[josh.elliott@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:josh.elliott@leg.state.nh.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: HB 2 Testimony, response needed

sorry for the typo. I meant to say, I just want to follow up and make sure that I am all set for tomorrow.



On Mon, May 3, 2021 at 1:44 PM Galen Spiegler < [galenspi@gmail.com](mailto:galenspi@gmail.com) > wrote:

Hello Josh, I just wanted to followup and make sure I small set for tomorrow.

On Fri, Apr 30, 2021 at 12:49 PM Galen Spiegler < [galenspi@gmail.com](mailto:galenspi@gmail.com) > wrote:

Hello,

My name is Galen Spiegler and I would like to testify at the May 4th Senate Finance committee hearing at 1pm.

Thank You so much

Please feel free to contact me at [galenspi@gmail.com](mailto:galenspi@gmail.com)

May you be safe

May you be happy

May you be healthy

May you live with ease

Galen Spiegler

Wright State University,

BA PSY

Ordained Marriage Officiant

Weddings on Rainbow Wheels

Universal Life Church

Founder and Director of Loungeability

Intern at Thrive Tribe 419

Author The Ability Almanac covers many disability issues ranging from language to accessibility to friendship to romance and much more. As the title implies, it is structured so that it lends itself to a busy life with readings that take no more than 5 minutes to complete.

To order the book, please visit <https://www.amazon.com/Ability-Almanac-Tidbits-Wisdom-Sized-Pieces/dp/B08R49555T>

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Clare O'Grady <ogradyce@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:22 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Written testimony opposing HB2

Good afternoon, Ms. Martone -

Below please find the text for my written testimony opposing House Bill 2. I'm also hoping to provide an oral testimony tonight at 6 PM EST, and registered to do so moments ago. That said, my clinical responsibilities may make it such that I will not be able to check in prior to 5:30 PM EST.

We shall see!

Thank you, and all the best,  
Clare O'Grady, DO MPH

My name is Dr. Clare O'Grady and I am a family medicine resident physician and New Hampshire native. I am grateful tonight for this opportunity to express my deep concerns regarding House Bill 2.

I practice medicine in a rural clinic in New Hampshire, in a town similar to the one from which I was raised. Bucolic landscapes, fresh farm produce, and neighborly waves unfortunately mask the healthcare disparities my rural patients face. In the past year of practice, I've listened to my patients' stories about newfound poverty as the few local businesses in town closed their doors. I've witnessed retrogression in their mental health at the hands of pandemic-induced seclusion atop the physical seclusion they already possess simply by being a rural resident. Perhaps most tragically, I've watched them decline life-saving treatments because they can no longer afford the gas to drive the forty miles to speciality clinics.

New Hampshire is a state that is comprised of an expansive and proud rural population that already struggles with access. Ultimately, limiting availability to medically-proven, safe, family planning programs, as is suggested in House Bill 2, will further widen this gap. This will be true especially for my rural patients, for rural women, for me.

Simply said, this goes against the very autonomy that this State boasts and promises to its residents. Resultantly, Live Free Or Die-rs, I strongly urge you to vote against House Bill 2. Thank you for your time and consideration.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Dragon, Jessica <jessica.dragon@genesishcc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:24 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1 Comments

My name is Jessica Dragon and I am the administrator of Keene Center, a skilled nursing facility in Cheshire County. I employ approximately 120 people, and my facility is capable of serving 106 residents. With the pandemic, our census has been reduced to an average daily census of 87 residents. Our ability to recover census is complicated by the fact that we are required to keep space open to quarantine those who might have COVID-19, which could otherwise serve additional residents.

New Hampshire was the only New England state to not raise daily Medicaid rates during the pandemic. We would not have made it this far without federal assistance, much of which came from the state, and the 6.2% in Medicaid rate increases that occurred in the last budget. Those rate increases were a down payment on years of underfunding. They cannot be followed by no rate increases whatsoever as we recover from this pandemic. Please raise Medicaid rates, and also support appropriating American Rescue Plan Act dollars for each licensed bed in order to save us from bankruptcy.

Thank you

Jessica

Jessica Dragon, NHA

Center Executive Director

Keene Center

[Jessica.Dragon@genesishcc.com](mailto:Jessica.Dragon@genesishcc.com)

(603)313-2610 Cell Phone

(610)347-6359 eFax

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** cowenfamily@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:24 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** opposition to HB 1 and HB2

Dear Senate Finance Committee: Please oppose HB1 and HB2.

Thank you.

Sharon Cowen  
Bedford, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Joy Roy <joyvr52@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:26 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Voucher bill

Dear Finance Committee of the NH State Senate,

Good Morning.

It is my understanding that there will be a public discussion regarding voucher bill (HB1 and HB2) today, Tuesday, May 4, 2021.

I am deeply opposed to vouchers for the following reasons.

1. The students the vouchers attempt to help are often the ones who get left behind. The parents of students in need are struggling themselves, and they do not know how to navigate such a system. It will be wealthy, educated folks who maneuver the system, and the haves and have-nots will become yet more divided.
2. Public schools will lose funding so necessary to meet the needs of students. Private schools in New Hampshire are not required to service special needs and/or English Language Learners, and they can discriminate on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, behavior, standardized test scores and academic achievement, connections with parents, and income. As a result, many students, often the students who need the most support, would be in the public school system with fewer resources. To add to this, private schools do not need to administer standardized tests and follow any curricula; basically, they can teach what they want when they want, with a few exceptions. In my 27 years as a public school educator in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, I have had former private-school students arrive at public school in grades four or five with an inability to read, write cohesively, and have little-to-no science or social studies curricula. Some students had only had religious instruction, which limited them in the realm of science immensely. In one recent case, a dyslexic student had attended a local private school for the first four years of her education, only to become frustrated because she could not read. Upon entry of our public elementary school, this student was tested, placed on an Individual Education Plan, and given the needed services. Within two years, she was reading close to grade level. If she had continued in the private school, she would have never received such services, and the school could have terminated her attendance in later years because private schools are allowed to reject students for any reason.
3. There is evidence that voucher systems do not make more knowledgeable students. Students do not need to attend school for the required time. " Attendance at an approved private school fulfills the compulsory attendance requirements." (N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann §193:1). According to the Center for American Progress ( <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-k-12/reports/2018/03/20/446699/highly-negative-impacts-vouchers/> ) and a study done by the Brookings Institution ( <https://www.brookings.edu/research/more-findings-about-school-vouchers-and-test-scores-and-they-are-still-negative/> ), vouchers do not insure our students will be more educated. In fact, the opposite is true in many cases, including this one.

The latest evaluation examined the outcomes of students using vouchers in Indiana for two, three, or four years between

the 2011-12 and 2014-15 school years. The Indiana study has the largest sample size—and the largest voucher program —across all studies examined in this report. More than 34,000 Indiana students received vouchers in the 2016-17 school year. The study used a matching methodology to compare the test scores of students who transferred to participating voucher schools with similar students who remained in public schools. It found that students who used vouchers did not see academic gains in their new schools and that they performed worse, on average, than their matched peers in the public schools that they left. (Brookings Institution, as quoted in Center for American Progress report, both cited above.)

4. "Teacher certification is not required for teachers at private schools."  
(<https://www2.ed.gov/admins/comm/choice/regprivschl/regprivschl.pdf>, p. 176) Many teachers in private schools do not hold state or National Board certification. They have had little-to-no education of classroom management (planning for, teaching, accommodating, modifying, and assessing students regarding curricula, as well as behavior management) and do not know what is developmentally appropriate for each age/grade level. Teacher-training programs provide these necessary pieces of the teaching profession. Recently, I spoke with a former fifth grader of mine who is now attending a private school for middle school. One of her teachers is a former college professor and treats his students as such. They sit and take notes for hours, then are tested on those notes. No labs, no experiments, nothing. That is not teaching and learning in middle school in the year 2021. One of the many opportunities this student had during elementary school was to peruse our local stream and learn how macroinvertebrates demonstrate the health of the stream (pollution, habitat loss, food web). We spent many days outside exploring this and other such topics, as well as asking questions and recording data.

5. School buildings need maintenance, and that is costly. If vouchers are used, that money is not available for public school building maintenance. As we know, many school buildings need repairs currently. Our school constantly contends with a leaky roof, and there are buckets around the school during significant rainstorms because of this. To take away yet more funding would leave us without resources for such repairs. Maintenance is at least 10 percent of a school budget, if not more. In my previous school district, I watched as a charter school took funds over time from the regular public schools, and the maintenance of our buildings demanded overrides (which did not always pass). As a result, one of our school buildings, the original part of which was built in 1916, had pigeons' nests and droppings all over the attic, as well as mice and such. Mold was rampant throughout the building. I ask you, would you want your office to have pigeons' nests, mice, and mold?

Although there are additional reasons I oppose vouchers, I have summarized five main points here.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sincerely,  
Joyce V. Roy  
Resident, Enfield, NH  
Elementary Teacher, Hanover, NH

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Eleanor Cochrane <cochraneeb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:40 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1 and HB 2

We want you all to know that as Hancock residents, supporters of our local ConVal school district and over burdened property taxpayers, we oppose HB1 and HB2 as more misguided, poorly thought out legislation destined to do more cost shifting to us, the over stressed property owners and continuing to underfund our public education. In addition, teaching the truth about systemic racism, sexism and defunding Planned Parenthood are contrary to your civic responsibilities and contrary to supporting affordable health care for those who can least afford to be without it. Leadership not cheap partisan politics is in short supply. We call on you to act for your constituents-all of them.

Do not pass these bills. They are not good for anyone!

Eleanor and Douglas Cochrane



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Lori McIntire <lmchanover@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:52 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Additional Remarks on HB 1

I wish to submit the following remarks regarding HB 1. My name is Lori McIntire and I am the Administrator of Hanover Hill Health Care Center, a skilled nursing facility located in Manchester. I employ 185 people, and my facility is capable of serving 124 residents. With the pandemic, our census has been reduced to as low as 90 residents. Our ability to recover census is complicated by the fact that we are required to keep space open to quarantine those who might have COVID-19, as well as quarantine unvaccinated new admissions.

New Hampshire was the only New England state to not raise daily Medicaid rates during the pandemic. We would not have made it this far without federal assistance, much of which came from the state, and the 6.2% in Medicaid rate increases that occurred in the last budget. **Without rate increases, we will not be able to recover from this pandemic.** Please raise Medicaid rates, and also support appropriating American Rescue Plan Act dollars for each licensed bed in order to save us from bankruptcy.

It is estimated that the effects of this pandemic has caused the average nursing care cost alone to increase up to \$30 per resident per day compared to the first quarter of 2020. In my 24 years in New Hampshire as a Nursing Home Administrator, this pandemic has contributed to the most serious staffing shortages - our state must prioritize the long term care needs of our elderly by raising Medicaid rates thereby allowing nursing homes to attract and retain qualified healthcare personnel.

We appreciate your consideration, and thank you for listening to the dire needs of New Hampshire skilled nursing facilities.

Lori

Lori McIntire, Administrator  
Hanover Hill Health Care Center  
700 Hanover Street  
Manchester, New Hampshire 03104  
(603) 627-3826 x304  
[www.hanoverhill.com](http://www.hanoverhill.com)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Brendan Minnihan <bminnihan88@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 2 Written Testimony

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing today to voice my opposition to two "added" components to HB 2. Although I am currently the Superintendent of the Newport School District, these views are my own.

My primary focus today is on SB 130 which would establish a voucher program to divert additional state monies away from the public education enshrined in the NH Constitution. These monies could be used for homeschool, for profit schools, and private school education while lacking any type of meaningful oversight and accountability. A recent small example of this type of misguided approach involves the for-profit Prenda program being touted by the NHDOE. At first, I was very enthusiastic about the notion of offering support to our neediest students coming out of the pandemic. The amazing part was the cost was listed at only \$5,000 per student. However, when looking just a little bit deeper, one learns that Prenda is currently being sued by the Arizona Attorney General's Office for fraud and the qualifications for the teachers (being called Prenda guides) is only to be 18 years of age and having worked with children for 5 years. Is this the standard we want for our students with the greatest needs? Do we really believe we can provide adequate oversight to an entire voucher program when we cannot even manage this program?

I have been working in New Hampshire public schools for many years (around 20). During this time, I have witnessed the politicization of public education and the subsequent detrimental effects this has had on teacher/staff morale, recruitment efforts, and student engagement. A recent article from the Union Leader has shown how even those individuals who attend charter schools in Manchester and Nashua areas tend to be wealthier with much lower percentages of additional needs. Does the legislature believe that the establishment of a voucher program will help alleviate disparities in educational access? If so, I don't believe there is much research to support that contention. Additionally, any historically reliable measure of student success (i.e., the NAEP test) has shown New Hampshire students do very well overall when compared with students in other states.

Further, the idea of placing the remnants of HB 544 into HB 2 seems to be out of touch with the will of the populace from the Live Free or Die state. Do the legislators really believe that the way to further civic engagement and community well-being is to prohibit these difficult conversations from taking place within a school/university environment?

Please do not politicize HB 2. If a group of House and/or Senate members really believe that SB 130 or HB 544 are good for their constituents, bring them up as stand alone bills and listen to the will of the people you represent.

I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brendan Minnihan

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Starkey Family <rjzj.starkey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Oppose HB2 with HB544 language included

To the members of the NH Senate Finance Committee,

Please don't take New Hampshire in the direction that HB544 would take us to. My family moved to New Hampshire in 2012 on a whim. I have become a proud resident and with Governor Sununu's, seemingly independent thinking, have been grateful. He doesn't seem to let others think for him and that, to me, is the epitome of Live Free or Die.

I don't want my governor to have to make the choice to veto a budget due to language that shouldn't be included. I am a mom of three children, two girls and one boy. My oldest is about to go to college and I would like to think that she will move back here, but know that if New Hampshire lets other organizations do our thinking for us, she will look for a new home. My family would love to stay in our current school district and if we have to, we can move to Vermont and still do that.

Republicans are supposed to be against 'cancel culture' and against so-called 'snowflakes.' Why are they trying to cancel free-thinking and debate? NH residents are strong enough to learn about both sides of an issue and think for ourselves. Please allow us the choice to do that and remove Chapter 10-C from the budget.

Regards,

Janice Starkey  
Hanover, NH

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** MacNeil, Heather <heather.macneil@genesishcc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:59 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1 testimony

Good morning,

My name is Heather Davis MacNeil and I am the Center Executive Director/Administrator of the Crestwood Center, a skilled nursing facility located in Milford. I employ approximately 90 people and my facility is capable of serving 81 residents. With the pandemic, our census was reduced to below 60 residents and we are still struggling to even get back to 70 residents/patients. Our ability to recover census is further complicated by the fact that we are required to keep space open to quarantine those who might have COVID-19.

New Hampshire was the only New England state to not raise daily Medicaid rates during the pandemic. We would not have made it this far without federal assistance, much of which came from the state, and the 6.2% in Medicaid rate increases that occurred in the last budget. Those rate increases were a down payment on years of underfunding. They cannot be followed by no rate increases whatsoever as we recover from this pandemic.

Please raise Medicaid rates, and also support appropriating American Rescue Plan Act dollars for each licensed bed in order to save us from bankruptcy.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

--

Heather M. (Davis) MacNeil  
[Heather.MacNeil@genesishcc.com](mailto:Heather.MacNeil@genesishcc.com)  
Regional Executive Director  
Crestwood Center  
40 Crosby Street  
Milford, NH 03055  
603-673-7061

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Christine Luke <christinegluke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:59 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** May 4, 2021 Testimony opposing HB 2

To the members of the Finance Committee,

My apologies for not being able to attend the 1 p.m. meeting today but I am writing to oppose HB2. This bill is an anti-First Amendment bill designed to censor educators, state employees, contractors, and students from having important conversations about race and gender.

If enacted, the bill would not allow educators from teaching certain historical truths about our country deemed "divisive concepts." It would limit classroom discussions about whether or not racism exists in our state or country by forbidding teachers and students from stating that New Hampshire or the U.S. is racist.

Our country's history is steeped in racism. For example, there was slavery, Jim Crow laws, anti-Chinese legislation in the form of the Exclusion Act, and the internment of the Japanese during World War II.

HB 2 would ban educators and students from participating in a debate about these issues. Why would we not encourage these conversation in classrooms where both sides could learn so much?

For these reasons, I oppose HB2.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Christine Luke  
Laconia, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Mary Schiavoni <mary.schiavoni@adimab.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:15 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Testimony for 1pm today from Adimab/Mary Schiavoni

Hello Debra,

Per my inquiry yesterday, I would like the opportunity to testify in opposition to the Divisive Concepts Amendment to budget bill HB 2. Below is what I plan to say on behalf of Adimab, LLC. I'm not sure if my correct email was entered yesterday. Could you send the virtual invite to me at [mary.schiavoni@adimab.com](mailto:mary.schiavoni@adimab.com)? Thank you.

My name is Mary Schiavoni and I am speaking on behalf of Adimab, a global biotechnology company headquartered in Lebanon. Adimab strongly opposed HB 544 before it was rightly tabled in the NH House of Representatives, and we continue to firmly oppose its present back-door incarnation as the "Divisive Concepts Amendment" to budget bill HB 2. This amendment tramples on First Amendment rights to free speech, represents government overreach, and will impede the ability of New Hampshire businesses to attract and retain top talent.

Adimab is a company at the leading edge of biopharmaceutical innovation with customers and employees from around the world, and we've established and maintained that position entirely through investing in human capital. We have a highly diverse workforce of discerning scientists, engineers, and researchers for whom inquiry and debate are essential drivers of success in the workplace and in our industry.

Adimab is not simply competing with our neighboring New England states for talent. We're competing with biopharma hubs and research centers across the country, and often the globe, to recruit the best talent to New Hampshire. This is a challenge that will become immeasurably harder if New Hampshire is viewed as a regressive and intolerant place to live and work, as is sure to be the case if the Divisive Concepts Amendment is passed into law.

As it is for Adimab, attracting and retaining a diverse workforce and remaining competitive on the global stage should be a priority for New Hampshire. We urge you to vote down the Divisive Concepts Amendment and in doing so maintain New Hampshire's standing as a business-friendly state that supports inclusive and empowered work environments unencumbered by restrictive legislation.

Mary F. Schiavoni | VP Human Resources | Adimab LLC | 978-771-5300

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April 27, 2021

New Hampshire Senate Finance Committee  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chair Daniels, Vice Chair Reagan, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League), I am writing to express our strong opposition to any codification of HB 544, *An Act relative to the propagation of divisive concepts*. This bill is racist, offensive, almost certainly unconstitutional, and has absolutely no place in New Hampshire.

As you may know, ADL is a leading anti-hate organization founded in 1913 to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment for all. Dedicated to combating antisemitism, prejudice, and bigotry of all kinds, as well as promoting civil rights, our goal is a world in which no one suffers from bias, discrimination or hate.

By preventing any state employee or contractor from teaching about how racism and sexism function (labeling such topics as "divisive concepts"), HB 544 essentially dictates the teaching of a revisionist history in New Hampshire in a way that perpetuates racism and sexism and ignores the existence of both in our laws, policies, systems, and institutions. Indeed, the very implication that certain socially constructed traits cannot be racist or sexist, or that people do not experience privilege (and are "oppressive") because of their race, or that individuals do not bear "responsibility" for past actions by other members of the same race, underscores just how much anti-racist learning is needed.

That should be enough. But from the perspective of an organization that advocated for Holocaust and genocide education last session, this legislation is fundamentally dangerous for another reason. Holocaust education is not just a lesson about unchecked antisemitism and racism, but one of the best ways to fight bigotry and hate. Pursuant to the bill language, however, educators would be prevented from, for example, teaching students that today, we bear a responsibility to provide reparations for past atrocities. This is unacceptable.

We implore you to reject this unconscionable legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Trestan". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Robert Trestan  
Regional Director

CC: Governor Chris Sununu

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Jennifer Rickards <jennifer.l.rickards@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:30 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Say no to HB544

Please vote no on any budget proposal that includes "The Propagation of Divisive Concepts Prohibited" language. It is anti-American to tell teachers that they can't teach students about the hard parts of American history and our current systems. We learn from our mistakes. We need in-depth analysis and discussion so that we can continue to progress and get better. Democracy depends on it!

Jennifer Rickards  
Etna, NH

---

Jennifer Rickards  
[jennifer.l.rickards@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.l.rickards@gmail.com)  
[www.threebyfive.org](http://www.threebyfive.org)



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Susan Moore <stmoore5@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:45 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone; Gary Daniels; john.reagan111@leg.state.nh.us; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; bob.guida@leg.state.nh.us; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey  
**Subject:** Fwd: Remove HB 544 from HB 2.

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Susan Moore <stmoore5@comcast.net>  
> To: Sue And Art Moore <stmoore5@comcast.net>  
> Date: 05/04/2021 12:16 PM  
> Subject: Remove HB 544 from HB 2.

>  
>

> Dear Members,

> The FIRST AMENDMENT to the US Constitution prevents the government from making laws which regulate or abridge the FREEDOM OF SPEECH. Speech rights were expanded significantly in a series of 20th and 21st century decisions which protect various forms of political speech, anonymous speech, and SCHOOL SPEECH.

> I request that you respect the First Amendment to the US Constitution and REMOVE The language of HB544 FROM HB2. This is not a Budget Item. This is a matter of FREE SPEECH for all of us.

> Thank you for accepting the fact that Freedom of Speech is an American Right and should not be regulated in any way.

>

> Susan Moore, MS

>

> (Science Educator)

> 11 Crockett Drive

> Bow, NH 03304

>

> Sent from my iPhone

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Carol & Bob Rougvie <cbrougvie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:48 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 2

To Senators Daniels, Reagan, Dallesandro, Morse, Giuda, Rosenwald, Hennessey, and Martone

It is deeply disturbing that the New Hampshire House of Representatives inserted HB 544's language banning "divisive concepts" in education and training into the state budget after HB 544 was tabled for the year. This tactic of banning education and discussion about the realities of systemic racial injustice and sexism halts and even reverses progress in understanding history and addressing the racism and sexism that exist in New Hampshire as everywhere else in our country. Discussion of conversations about racism and sexism is not racism. Censorship of those discussions is racism. If this is not enough to move you to use your courage and wisdom to remove the "divisive concepts" language in its entirety from every component of HB2, the "budget trailer bill," or if you fundamentally disagree with this position, understand the effects it will have on New Hampshire's business and economic health, its ability to attract people to live and work here who will contribute to our economy. Don't take New Hampshire in this dangerous direction.

Take the "divisive concepts" language out of our state budget.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Rougvie  
West Lebanon, New Hampshire

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



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[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Jeanne Sanders <jeanne@goldenview.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:49 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone

Nursing homes need additional monies added to their daily rate to enable them to provide the care needed. It is impossible to hire with present funding.

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Christina Pierce <christina\_pierce@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 1:06 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposed to HB2

Madam Senator,

HB544 was tabled, but its language was added to the House Budget and will be taken up by the NH Senate Finance Committee. The intent of HB544 contradicts MIP's mission for community understanding and mutual respect. Our opposition to HB544 is rooted in our commitment to what Dr. Martin Luther King called "the beloved community." We can only create a more tolerant, loving and compassionate place for us all if we are able to provide that place to all of us.

Collectively, we need to face head on the present racism and sexism, existing virtually every system in our lives - education, criminal justice, housing, economy, and religion.

Proposing to suppress certain facts of our collective histories, because those facts are seen by the proponents of this bill to be "Divisive Concepts," that may be painful to certain people chills not only the spine, but the heart of our democracy.

Instead of limiting discussion, let's commit to deep reflection, hard conversations, and changing practices and policies in all our institutions to move beyond racism and sexism.

Together we as a society can grow with trust, faith, compassion and love.

Blessings,  
Christina Pierce  
Fitzwilliam, NH

603-585-6711

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Knouff, Gregory <gknouff@keene.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 1:06 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 544

Dear New Hampshire Senate:

I am writing to oppose HB 544 as I believe it fundamentally violates the principle of academic freedom to allow ideas to stand on their own merit and also the precepts of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article 22 of the New Hampshire State Constitution. Any attempt to prohibit a particular theoretical approach and/or methodology to social issues opens a Pandora's Box of intellectual censorship. This would allow subsequent state legislatures to prohibit ideas and worldviews of any sort that they may find objectionable. For example, some historians have worked from a perspective that argues the history of the United States is unique and exceptional in the history of the world. This approach is controversial and rejected by other historians who see the U.S. as part of larger world history patterns. A subsequent state government may choose to outlaw such a perspective simply because the majority of the particular legislature found it objectionable. Free speech and thought are "are essential to the security of Freedom in a State: They ought, therefore, to be inviolably preserved." Such overarching epistemological approaches to understanding our society are and must remain open to debate in the free market of ideas, not in the arbitrary determinative power of the state.

As a professional historian of the American Revolutionary era, from my perspective, I believe it is impossible to fully understand that period and its effects without considering the historical background of slavery and also various constructions of racial identities. They certainly shaped subsequent historical, social, and political structures. It is important to know that these structures predated both the United States' and New Hampshire's existence, so it is difficult to suggest that racism was product of the U.S. alone. Historical continuities are as important as historical change. American history should be a scholarly, reasoned consideration of extant past records in reconstructing the culture of the past on its, not our, terms. There is room for many scholarly approaches to the study of history and many other disciplines that inform our social and political policies. As I often tell students, schools and universities should teach students how to think, not what to think. This is based on their critical analysis of what they read and what they are taught, which they should feel free to reject based on evidence and informed critique. It is important that the strength of ideas and interpretations be built upon evidence, not dogma. Therefore, all New Hampshire citizens should be free to express their evidenced interpretations and have them subjected to critical scrutiny. However, no approach should be prohibited by the state. We should not politicize certain ideas and not others. This will lead to a slippery slope of partisan legislation that restricts ideas on all sides. As I noted, I believe this is a violation of U.S. and New Hampshire constitutional rights and not befitting a free state and free citizenry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Gregory Knouff  
Keene, NH.



May 4, 2021

Thank you for taking my testimony.

I am Allan Reetz of the Hanover Co-op Food Stores and Auto Service Centers. This business stands opposed to HB 544 and its inclusion in the state's budget.

The Hanover Co-op is an 85-year old New Hampshire business built on local values. We stand aligned with the 240 other businesses and entities that signed the anti-544 letter sent to you by New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility. Those businesses represent over 60,000 workers. A look at the list of signatories will show a vibrant portion of your state economy that this legislation will turn away.

The unwieldy intent of HB 544 seeks to legislate against corporate free speech. Proposed restrictions extend to sub-contractors and vendors...all because they do business with our state or were hired to help?

It contains directives that, at first glance, seem benign, but onerous upon a second reading. Its General Provisions state that "nothing...shall prevent promotion of" select topics, but only in a narrow window of dictated choice.

It begs the questions, *What successful legislation is this modeled on, and what problems does it seek to solve?* Supporters might state that its language seeks to unite, not to divide. Yet, how is that not evident to business leaders across the state?

If this is mere misunderstanding, that does not bode well for agency reviews of future compliance with such a mandate.

I believe we live in a civil society where constructive debate is encouraged and necessary. The effort to legislate away the risk of hurt feelings or the assignment of blame will not work in business any better than it would in the New Hampshire House and Senate.

Let us never silence the past or prevent discussion of our future. The wise voice of New Hampshire history still has much to teach us.

Thank you for your consideration,

Allan Reetz  
603-643-2667, ext. 2781

**Nourish. Cultivate. Cooperate.**

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Patricia T. Glowa <Patricia.T.Glowa@hitchcock.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 1:13 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone; 'CC:'  
**Cc:** 'Michael Padmore'  
**Subject:** RE: HB 2 and "divisive concepts"

Dear Finance Committee members and Governor Sununu –

I would like to add additional comment about your deliberations on HB 2, the budget bill.

Under consideration is an amendment that would require health care facilities to physically separate family planning and other gynecologic health services from the location of abortion care. This is an extremely punitive and harmful proposal. Abortion is regular health care. It is within the spectrum of health care necessary for women to take care of their own health and the health of their families. Particularly at a time when health care insurance is not universal, day care is routinely difficult to find and prohibitively expensive for many working families, adequate housing is inadequately available and food insecurity is growing, many women must be able to have abortions when they feel that they cannot adequately take care of a child or another child. Throwing up more obstacles does a grave disservice to these women and their families. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to remove this amendment and restore the ability of health centers (Equality, Lovering, and Planned Parenthood) to comprehensively care for their patients without this proposed punitive hindrance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patricia T. Glowa, MD

**From:** Patricia T. Glowa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:54 AM  
**To:** 'Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us' <Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us>; 'John.Reagan111@gmail.com' <John.Reagan111@gmail.com>; 'Lou.Dallesandro@leg.state.nh.us' <Lou.Dallesandro@leg.state.nh.us>; 'Chuck.Morse@leg.state.nh.us' <Chuck.Morse@leg.state.nh.us>; 'Bob.Giuda@leg.state.nh.us' <Bob.Giuda@leg.state.nh.us>; 'Cindy.Rosenwald@leg.state.nh.us' <Cindy.Rosenwald@leg.state.nh.us>; 'Erin.Hennessey@leg.state.nh.us' <Erin.Hennessey@leg.state.nh.us>; 'debra.martone@leg.state.nh.us' <debra.martone@leg.state.nh.us>; 'CC:' <governorsununu@nh.gov>  
**Cc:** 'Michael Padmore' <Michael.Padmore@nhms.org>  
**Subject:** HB 2 and "divisive concepts"

Dear Finance Committee members and Governor Sununu –

I write to strenuously urge you to oppose HB 2. The idea that discussing “divisive concepts” should be illegal is a grave threat to our democracy. In addition, it threatens my ability as a physician to provide excellent care to my patients. The first amendment to the Constitution guarantees free speech, precisely because we need the ability to discuss uncomfortable ideas and history. We must be able to raise difficult issues of inequalities in our society based on race, sex, ethnic identities, religion, and other categories. These inequities have resulted in health disparities that we, as physicians, have an obligation to address. We need to be able to study these problems and arrive at evidence-based approaches to improve the health status of all of our citizens. I hope you will oppose this bill, and this concept. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to learning the outcome of your votes.

Sincerely,

Patricia T. Glowa, MD

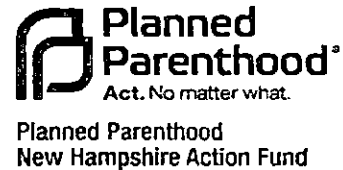
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**MEMORANDUM**

To: New Hampshire Senate and interested parties

From: Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Date: May 6, 2021

**RE: New Hampshire Family Planning Program**

As the Senate continues its work on the FY 22-23 state budget, the New Hampshire Family Planning Program has been singled out by the House and put in jeopardy. The House-passed budget drastically dismantles the program in two ways. First, it requires reproductive health centers to “physically and financially” separate their abortion services from all other health services to qualify for participation in the program, even though the Family Planning Program already does not cover abortion care. **The impact of the separation requirement would be the immediate removal of providers who currently offer services to 12,000 patients, which is 79% of the entire Family Planning Program.** Second, and for the remaining providers who would be eligible to stay in the program, the budget does not take into account the gap in federal funding, which is due to the continued effects of the Title X gag rule.

**NH Family Planning Program Overview:** The NH Family Planning Program is the core women’s health program operated by the NH Department of Health and Human Services, funded through the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health. This program subsidizes no-cost and low-cost reproductive and sexual health care, including well-person exams, cancer screenings, access to birth control, health counseling, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. The New Hampshire Family Planning Program has partnered with independent health care organizations for nearly 50 years to ensure the continuous provision of high quality family planning services across the state.

The NH Family Planning Program covers a wide range of reproductive health care and preventive services, **but none of these funds are used to pay for abortion.** Patients who seek access to abortion care must pay out-of-pocket or through private insurance. New Hampshire Family Planning Program services are available to all individuals, regardless of income and residency status, at designated health care centers across the state.

The 14 sites/health centers currently in the Family Planning Program served over 15,000 New Hampshire residents last year. If the House budget is enacted, 7 of these sites would no longer be eligible to participate in the program, causing a ripple effect across the entire state, risking or delaying low- or no-cost preventive care for thousands of Granite Staters.

**Federal Funding:** Since August 2019, providers including PPNNE, Loving Health Center, Equality Health Center, and the majority of NH's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) left the federal Title X program after a federal "gag rule" was implemented that would require them to provide misinformation to patients. These providers have not received federal funding since they left the program.

**Gag Rule Background:** After the implementation of the 2019 federal gag rule and subsequent loss of federal funds for preventative reproductive health care, a bipartisan majority of New Hampshire lawmakers inserted additional state funding into the budget to cover lost federal money. Governor Sununu signed the FY 20-21 budget, which included that additional funding.

**Current Status:** In recent weeks, the federal Department of Health and Human Services released proposed regulations to end the Title X gag rule. However, funds will not be available to providers until, at the earliest, March 2022, based on the anticipated timeline for federal rule changes. **This leaves a minimum 9-month funding gap in the next fiscal year that will impact access to these essential services to the providers who would be allowed in the program (who provide care to 21% of the current program) if the "physical and financial separation" requirement remains in place. According to DHHS, a 9-month funding gap equals \$1,235,532.**

**Current State Budget:** The current budget, passed by the House, leads to the dismantling of the entire NH Family Planning Program by (1) inserting language to force providers who offer abortion services to **"physically and financially" separate abortion services** from other services – which is unnecessary and nearly impossible to comply with. The intent of this language is simple: to force providers to close their doors entirely. This language also (2) **prohibits new contracts** between Federally Qualified Health Centers and health centers that provide abortion that happen for specialized care, such as Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) insertion or removal. In addition, for those who would still be allowed in the program (**only 21% of the patient load**), it (3) **significantly underfunds** the Family Planning Program, as it does not take into account the 9-month federal funding gap.

*We respectfully ask that you amend the budget to (1) remove the language in Section 34 of HB2 about "physical and financial separation" and contract restrictions, to maintain consistency from past state budget language and (2) include in HB1 the 9-month coverage for Family Planning services of an additional \$1,235,532, as identified by DHHS in its communication on March 12 to Division 3 of House Finance.*

Kayla Montgomery

VP of Public Affairs

[kayla.montgomery@ppnne.org](mailto:kayla.montgomery@ppnne.org)

Elizabeth Canada

Advocacy Manager

[elizabeth.canada@ppnne.org](mailto:elizabeth.canada@ppnne.org)

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**Background:**

**Overview of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England:** Planned Parenthood health centers are a critical source for health care in our New Hampshire communities and have been for more than 50 years. PPNNE's health care network is one the most efficient delivery models in the region, offering care that is both high quality and affordable. PPNNE's consolidated and streamlined organizational structure, with 21 health centers across three states, has achieved significant administrative and operational savings, allowing more of the funds invested in our programs to go to direct care and less to overhead. ***The six Planned Parenthood health centers accessed by New Hampshire residents served over 11,000 patients in 2020*** through our health facilities in Claremont, Derry, Exeter, Keene, Manchester and White River Junction, VT. These health centers are among the *only* places people can access specialized care like an IUD or the birth control shot.

Beyond reproductive and sexual health services, our health centers are a critical entry point for vulnerable patients who seek care beyond reproductive health. Planned Parenthood is able to assist or provide coordinated resource connection to patients with their mental health, substance treatment, and recovery. In 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic, more than 50% of PPNNE's patients in New Hampshire were new patients. Keeping PPNNE's doors open for patients was -- and continues to be -- critical for essential health and reducing the patient load on front line workers. The longstanding programs that the Department of Health and Human Services / Division of Public Health support provide access to essential, preventive health care for over 11,000 women, men, and young people each year. Because of these strategic public health investments and effective programs, New Hampshire enjoys one of the lowest teen pregnancy rates in the nation and ranks at the top for maternal health outcomes.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Laurie Warnock <lwarnock@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 1:20 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 1 & HB 2

Dear members of the NH Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to urge you to vote in opposition to HB1 and HB2. The proposed cuts to NH public education and Health and Human Services will hurt all families in NH, but will impact families in peril even more. Legislation inappropriate to include in budget bills has been rolled into these bills as underhanded ways to get them passed. Do not be a party to setting these precedents.

Laurie Warnock  
20 Redcoat Dr.  
Hampstead NH 03841  
603-770-7954

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Charles D. Brackett <Charles.D.Brackett@hitchcock.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 1:23 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB554

hi all- I'm frankly appalled by the content of HB554 and see it as a clear violation of free speech. I'm surprised it has progressed this far, but it needs to be taken out of the budget bill ASAP. Do we really want to progress to an authoritarian government that dictates what we say and think?.

Thanks, Charlie

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Charles Brackett, MD, MPH, FACP  
General Internal Medicine  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Mariam Levy <mariam.levy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 1:36 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Inclusion of "divisive concepts" in the budget

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I had signed up to give testimony today about HB1 and HB2 and unfortunately had to go pick up my son before I was able to speak.

I wanted to write in opposition to these bills due to their inclusion of the language in HB 544 regarding divisive concepts. I am a parent living in Exeter NH who has been involved in the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice committee at Lincoln Street School. As part of my work with this committee I have been running a group of white parents who want to learn more about how to fight racism and raise anti-racist children. This work has been so enlightening and so powerful.

The system of chattel slavery and then Jim Crow were explicitly race based systems that benefited one race at the extreme cost of the other. I know it can be uncomfortable to have to face these historic moral failures, but pretending that these systems didn't exist or that they do not continue to affect us today is willful ignorance. We cannot get out of our discomfort around issues of race by avoiding these conversations. I have found in my personal experiences that while these conversations are hard, they are the only way to work through the discomfort to get to a new place of equality for all of us.

Please do not allow our state to be in the position of censoring conversations about race and the work we need to do to move beyond our painful past.

Thank you,

Mariam Levy  
18 Locust Ave  
Exeter, NH

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[I'm supporting the Unity Circles CommUNITY Fundraiser](#)

Unity Circles started in 2012 with a vision of thriving communities where cycles of violence are replaced by cycles of intergenerational leadership grounded in holistic healing, resilience, and transformation. Unity Circles engages and trains youth to be active participants in healing and transforming their communities. We practice transformative and restorative justice and community accountability processes to do this work.



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Hunter Porter <porterhunter2005@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 2:00 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Nashua High School South Democrats Testimony Against HB2

The Nashua High School South Democrats oppose HB2 because of the horrendous Chapter 10-C, the prohibition of divisive concepts. This bill would prohibit students like us from truly learning the history of our country. Teachers would be unable to fully discuss the racism and sexism that colors the past *and* present of this country. In addition to this terrible effect, this bill would prohibit police officers from receiving bias training. As can be seen in the police killings that engulfs our news, police officers have a clear bias against people of color. This bias has fatal consequences. Bias training is a necessary and extremely important part of police training. Prohibiting the state of New Hampshire from providing bias training opens the door to racism and sexism in the many workplaces involved in this bill. This is because racial sensitivity training helps people of color and women from experiencing microaggressions that white people may not have been aware of before the training. This is extremely harmful to marginalized groups because they will not feel completely safe and comfortable in their workplaces. Minorities have a right to feel safe in their workplaces. They should expect to not experience racism in their workplaces. Some may say that if people feel uncomfortable in their workplace, they should leave, but this is not a choice for many New Hampshire citizens.

28 April 2021

Dear Members of New Hampshire Senate Finance Committee,

We hope this letter finds you well.

We are writing to you today to urge that you **remove HB 544 language from the state budget** and oppose its introduction in other forms before the New Hampshire state legislature.

HB 544 defines and prohibits the dissemination of certain “divisive concepts” like unconscious bias related to sex and race, basically banning activities such as trainings on diversity, equity, and inclusion in state government and agencies, public educational institutions, and businesses contracting with the state of New Hampshire.

It is our perspective that this legislation is harmful to our communities and the economy, containing unnecessary restrictions and would place the state of New Hampshire in a position of dictating to government agencies and private enterprise what they can and cannot discuss with their employees as part of efforts to be more welcoming, supportive, and successful. Furthermore, banning diversity training and discussions would negatively impact the local economy by restricting efforts to make New Hampshire a more attractive place to live and work for everyone.

The Neighboring Food Co-op Association (NFCA) is a federation of 40 food co-ops and startup businesses, locally owned by 160,000 people across New England and New York State. Our New Hampshire members include 4 food co-ops and 2 startup business initiatives, locally owned by over 35,700 people and operating 7 storefronts. Together, they employ more than 560 people, generate over \$104.5 million in annual revenue, and sell more than \$21 million in products from local farms and businesses. In 2020 alone, more than 2,000 people in New Hampshire joined their local food co-ops, sharing in the joint ownership of their local grocery stores.

Education and training on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to our co-ops’ commitment to building welcoming businesses and empowering community enterprises, and to creating spaces where all community members feel welcome. The challenges of racism and sexism are complex social issues that have a direct impact on our communities and restricting institutions like state government, public schools, and local businesses from addressing these issues will only harm their ability to thrive as public institutions, economic generators, and employers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Erbin Crowell, Executive Director



Faye Mack, President



Neighboring Food Co-op Association  
PO Box 93, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370  
c: 401-419-0381 // f: 413-625-3061  
e: erbin@nfca.coop // w: www.nfca.coop





## Debra Martone

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**From:** Deborah Opramolla <dopramolla@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 2:32 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Testimony

Good afternoon, my name is Deborah Opramolla. I live in Rindge. I am opposed to HB2 as it stands. As a Disability Organizer and advocate the language of HB544 included in HB2 is unacceptable. Disability Justice requires everyone to realize having a disability is a normal part of life. What it is not is being embarrassed or ashamed of family members that experience a disability. What is not normal is to become silent. The People's Budget demands investment in services such as fully funding the wait list and dental care for those who experience a disability. This must be an investment that not only takes individuals off the waitlist and provides dental care but allows them all the services an individual needs to be partake in the Beloved Community. Silencing our ability to have discussions on our culture, history and training of our workforce sends the message we are not welcomed in New Hampshire.

Also, there are daily between 25 and 50 children waiting for ER beds in urgent need of medical health care. The State House budget also closes the Sununu Youth Detention Center, which we support, but where will those children go? There are no existing appropriations for where to rehouse detainees in the SYDC. Rep. Jess Edwards suggested they be housed in the Hillsborough County Jail, which is morally repugnant and puts children in an already bloated and unreasonably large carceral system that we should be seeking to divest from. We demand appropriations to solve the mental health crisis in New Hampshire Emergency Rooms by fully funding the Department of Health and Human Services, and we demand that children with mental health needs be fully cared for by the state and the state does not seek carceral punishment for them. The Department of Health and Human Services provides vital services to the disabled community, and it is the moral and legal obligation of the state to continue providing those services and fund the department fully so they can serve the community. We demand that the DHHS be fully funded and that there be appropriations made for disability care.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Liz Gilmore <mslizgilmore@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 2:36 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SB 130

I have read the text of this bill, and have multiple questions about the efficacy of this program. One issue that stands out most critically is what the effects will be on property taxes. Obviously, school funding that will be adversely affected will be made up inevitably by increased property taxes.

In the town of Hopkinton where I live, it was a struggle to pass the 2020 school budget because of the legitimate concerns of homeowners re property taxes. As I drove to the drive-through voting location, I had an opportunity, as the passenger, to look at various properties more critically. I have continued to do so, and have noted that there are numerous properties in need of paint and repairs. An increase in property taxes will surely exacerbate this situation for many homeowners.

We contemplated sending our children to private schools, but never once entertained the notion that the local taxpayers should participate in this schooling choice. SB 130 very definitely considers it acceptable for local property tax payers to help foot the bill for the EFA program.

How in the world do you justify this program to your constituents, who clearly have no special exemption from the effects of it?

This is a bill that should not be passed in its current iteration, if ever.

Elizabeth Gilmore

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Alison P.R. Kapadia <apreid@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 2:41 PM  
**To:** Erin Hennessey; Gary Daniels; johnreagan111@gmail.com; Cindy Rosenwald; Bob Giuda; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 2 testimony

My name is Alison Kapadia. I am a NH resident, parent, and emergency physician from Hanover, NH. I signed up to testify today, but I have to sign off to work a clinical shift in the emergency department at 2:45pm, before I have been called to testify.

First I want to thank all the members of the Senate Finance Committee for their service to our state and our communities. Thank you also for giving me this time to speak. I urge you to remove all language from HB 544, or the 'divisive topics' bill, from HB 2, the state budget.

I think we can all acknowledge that there continue to be inequalities in our state and country. Here are a few numbers. In NH the incarceration rate for black people is more than 6 times higher than the incarceration rate for white people. While NH does not collect race data on traffic stops, our neighbor Vermont does collect this data. The Vermont population is about 1% black and in Vermont 10% of traffic stops are of black people. There are similarly staggering numbers for disparities in unemployment, median income, college education, home ownership, maternal mortality, and life expectancy at birth, among others. In NH communities, schools, hospitals, and businesses, we want to talk about these problems to understand them and work towards a more productive and successful state.

I was heartened at a recent local school board meeting where two of our local seventh grade classes were highlighted. In one class they presented artwork from a unit on the Founding Fathers of this country. The unit was about the tension between freedom and equality. The students talked about their nuanced understanding of the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution and how those ideals were in conflict with the reality of a country founded on slavery. A second seventh grade class talked about a unit on active legislation. The students chose to learn about HB 544, which expresses the same tension between lofty ideals and the denial of the reality of a country, and state, with ongoing systemic oppression. The students were opposed to HB 544, likely because it suppresses honest discussion of these real problems and instead codifies state-sanctioned censorship. Both seventh grade classes clearly have great respect for the American (and NH) values of freedom and hard work. This is exactly what we need to hold dear while trying to create a more perfect union. It is precisely because I hold these values so dear that I urge you to remove the HB 544 language from the NH state budget. HB 544 suppresses speech, denies freedom to all our citizens, and does not allow for the hard work our communities want to do all over NH to move the reality in our state closer to our expressed values.

Sincerely,  
Alison Kapadia

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Alison P. R. Kapadia  
alisonprk@gmail.com

## Debra Martone

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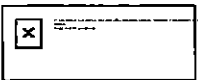
**From:** Dja Konan, Chantal <chantal.djakonan@genesishcc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 2:44 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1

My name is Chantal Dja Konan and I am the administrator of Ridgewood Center, a skilled nursing facility in Bedford, NH. I employ over 100 people, and my facility is capable of serving 148 residents. With the pandemic, our census has been reduced to 121 residents. Our ability to recover census is complicated by the fact that we are required to keep space open to quarantine those who might have COVID-19, which could otherwise serve 20 residents.

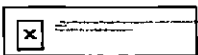
New Hampshire was the only New England state to not raise daily Medicaid rates during the pandemic. We would not have made it this far without federal assistance, much of which came from the state, and the 6.2% in Medicaid rate increases that occurred in the last budget. Those rate increases were a down payment on years of underfunding. They cannot be followed by no rate increases whatsoever as we recover from this pandemic. Please raise Medicaid rates, and also support appropriating American Rescue Plan Act dollars for each licensed bed in order to save us from bankruptcy.

I know I am late in sending this, however, I wanted to share my thoughts still. WE are CARING FOR HUMANS. We are taking care of living breathing HUMANS who did not elect to be in a nursing home and are here because they need help. Through this pandemic, they have had more restrictions and things taken from them and are still here and resilient. This funding allows us to continue to care for them, but to allow them to stay in their home!

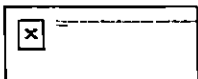
--  
Chantal Dja Konan  
Center Executive Director/ Administrator  
Ridgewood Center  
25 Ridgewood Rd Bedford, NH 03110  
603- 623-8805



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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Linehan, Meghan <meghan.linehan@genesishcc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 2:55 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** NH - HB1 Remarks

Hello,

My name is Meghan Linehan and I am the administrator of Wolfeboro Bay Center, a skilled nursing facility in Wolfeboro, NH. I employ 90 people, and my facility is capable of serving 104 residents. With the pandemic, our census had been reduced to 78 residents back in December of 2020. We are still actively recovering our census, as we are running at a census of 87 today. Our ability to recover census is complicated by the fact that we are required to keep space open to quarantine those who might have COVID-19.

New Hampshire was the only New England state to not raise daily Medicaid rates during the pandemic. We would not have made it this far without federal assistance, much of which came from the state, and the 6.2% in Medicaid rate increases that occurred in the last budget. Those rate increases were a down payment on years of underfunding. They cannot be followed by no rate increases whatsoever as we recover from this pandemic. Please raise Medicaid rates, and also support appropriating American Rescue Plan Act dollars for each licensed bed in order to save us from bankruptcy.

Please understand that as skilled nursing facility employees we care for human beings, the most vulnerable population. We need additional funding in order to keep up with the day to day costs that this pandemic has imposed on us. Funding that can assist in our beloved residents quality of care, meals, daily activities and more.

Thank you,

Meghan

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Meghan Linehan, NHA | Center Executive Director

Wolfeboro Bay Center  
P: 603-569-3950

E: [meghan.linehan@genesishcc.com](mailto:meghan.linehan@genesishcc.com)

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ARTHUR GARDINER  
TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE  
ON HB 1 AND HB 2  
MAY 4, 2021

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Arthur Gardiner. I live in Hanover New Hampshire. I urge that the Committee work on HB 1 and HB 2 fully fund the initiatives in the 10 Year mental health plan adopted in January 2019. We in the Upper Valley are particularly concerned that adequate funding be provided to permit the initiation and successful operation of a mobile crisis support facility in this part of the state – decisions on which are being made right now. We need legislative support that will ensure an adequate budget for that greatly needed treatment facility.

I have a family member who is burdened with mental illness. We have direct experience with the serious consequences of the emergency room boarding crisis. Without going into detail, I can testify with assurance that the long wait in a very busy emergency room, unable to cope in a humane way with a serious attack of fear and paranoia, has contributed in a major way to delusional memories of trauma. With every good motivation, a system designed to protect and cure had a harmful rather than helpful effect. The Emergency Room boarding crisis has to be addressed and eliminated.

I understand that the Emergency Boarding problem is the result of a much broader issue – an overburdened mental healthcare system stretched beyond its limit. There are constraints at every stage. Providers are able to handle only a portion of requests for help from all but the very well to do. There are not enough first contact crisis support facilities to provide needed initial treatment and to separate more serious from less serious mental problems. Persons

sufficiently ill to visit an emergency room face the waiting time that so prominently evidences the system's lack of sufficient capacity. Those who finally reach a Designated Receiving Facility receive treatment from a caring and competent but frantically busy staff. Many beds there are used by patients who could successfully be treated in transition facilities offering less intensive support but there are not enough available. And the entire care structure suffers from a wage structure that is really inadequate for its needs.

Our local Upper Valley newspaper has recently reported that our Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center must turn away patients asking for mental health care because it does not have the capacity to treat them all. One can imagine the outcry if persons suffering from heart disease or cancer were denied care from lack of capacity. We need to be aware that the spectrum of mental illness includes a large cohort of people just as impaired by illness as those suffering from melanoma or arteriosclerosis. An adequate health care system must be available to treat such illness every time and on time.

As for the concern raised in the legislation before you about "divisive concepts." It is astonishing that citizens of New Hampshire, a state with the motto "live free or die" could seek to suppress diverse views of our 250 year history as a country "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." Our history is what it is – both its tremendous achievements and its difficulties. Our history, viewed from all perspectives, is the cauldron from which we must realistically fashion our future.

Thank you for your time.



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Maureen Stannard <5stannards@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 3:01 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 544

Please vote in opposition to the archaic HB544.

Thank you,  
Maureen Stannard

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Amanda Toll <electamandanh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 3:25 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Written Testimony In Opposition To HB-1 and HB-2

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Amanda Elizabeth Toll. I represent Cheshire 16. I am writing today in opposition to HB-1 and HB-2 relative to state fees, funds, and expenditures.

This budget irresponsibly cuts the business enterprise tax, the business profits tax, the rooms and meals tax, and the interest and dividends tax resulting in revenue decline for the state. Consequently, there will be massive cuts to social services and education. Costs will shift to towns, likely forcing them to increase property taxes, which will disproportionately harm folks on fixed incomes.

The people of New Hampshire deserve a state budget that invests in the health, education, recovery, opportunity, and vitality of our communities. In line with this, I endorse the NH People's Budget, which was drafted by a coalition of social justice organizations. I wish this was the budget before you today. The People's Budget demands we invest in our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, in real economic security, in our state workers, in adequately funding education (including adult education), in our young adults, in people with disabilities and their families, in our children along with their parents and caregivers, in our elders, and in comprehensive healthcare, including but not limited to mental health, reproductive health, and dental health.

I would be remiss if I left without discussing what an abomination it is to have the language of HB544 in this budget. I saw a local activist write, "The divisive concepts the white male sponsors take issue with are any references to current or past oppression that was based on race, ethnicity or gender. This proposal is absurd. For those who would seek to prevent discussion of painful realities, we recall the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "true peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice." I agree with this sentiment, and we must reckon with systemic injustices in order to move forward towards a compassionate and just future, together.

Finally, as one of many citizens of New Hampshire who has utilized our reproductive health care centers, I also find it utterly shameful that this budget will be used to strip funding from necessary reproductive health care centers. In 2020, 65% of Planned Parenthood Northern New England patients in New Hampshire had low incomes -- This means a household of one would have a maximum annual gross income of \$25,520. In 2020, PPNNE saw 10,872 patients at the five NH health centers; the two most frequent reasons for PPNNE's patients' care were (1) family planning, contraception, and counseling and (2) symptom visits. Patients visit Planned Parenthood for many reasons -- and primarily, it is to access affordable health care. Stripping funding from PPNNE and other reproductive health care centers will impact these low-income folks the most, and will have negative impacts on health outcomes for the most vulnerable.

For all of these reasons, I strongly oppose HB-1 and HB-2.

Respectfully,  
Amanda Elizabeth Toll  
NH State Representative

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Pamela Jordan <pamjordan01@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 3:42 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Pamela Jordan  
**Subject:** FY 2022-2023 Budget

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I had signed up to provide comments at today's 1:00 pm hearing, but my name was not called before I had to leave for another remote meeting. So, I am writing you now with my brief remarks.

As a parent of a Nashua high school student and a college teacher, I believe that education is a public good that benefits society at large. I urge you to focus primarily on the needs of students, families, and our most vulnerable communities when finalizing this budget.

First and foremost, the NH legislature must close the full \$90 million education spending gap and guarantee that school districts receive no less in aid in each of the next two years than they received this year. As you must know by now, New Hampshire contributes the lowest amount of state funds to its public schools of any state in the country. The existing formula fails students in dozens of property-poor communities, especially at a time when we're still recovering financially and otherwise from the pandemic. Therefore, I urge the Senate Finance Committee to replace the proposed statewide property tax cuts with changes to the education funding formula, which would be more equitable across the board.

Next, SB130 on the funding of education vouchers must not be included as an amendment to this proposed budget. It would further deprive our public schools of necessary resources. In fact, Reaching Higher NH found that SB 130 could disproportionately affect rural districts, districts serving large numbers of low-income students, including Nashua and Manchester, and districts that have lower capacity to raise revenue through taxes.

I also strongly urge Senators to remove from HB 2 Chapter 10-C, otherwise known as HB544, which would prohibit schools from teaching about and offering trainings on systemic racism and sexism. It's a form of censorship, which is unconstitutional, undemocratic, and unproductive in any educational setting. I agree with Governor Sununu, who emphasized that "it really limits free speech." What the U.S. Department of Justice under President Eisenhower wrote in its brief about the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 is still applicable today: "It is in the context of the present world struggle between freedom and tyranny that the problem of racial discrimination must be viewed."

In addition to these education-related concerns, I would like to add that the \$50 million cut to Health and Human Services would prevent this important state agency from fulfilling its mission to improve the effectiveness, coordination and delivery of the many programs and services that help people across New Hampshire meet their basic needs. Plus, a tax on family planning providers and adding physical separation requirements for abortion care would place an undue burden on reproductive care providers and would harm low-income women the most.

In closing, please keep students, families, and members of vulnerable communities foremost in your hearts and minds as you revise the state budget. Thank you for reading my comments and for your service to Granite Staters.

Sincerely yours,  
Pamela A. Jordan, Ph.D.  
13 Ashland Street  
Nashua, NH 03064

## Debra Martone

---

**From:** Ed Robbins <ed@erobbins.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 3:50 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposition to the language in HB 2

Chairman Daniels and the members of the committee,

My name is Ed Robbins and I live in the town of Sandown. Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony.

I'm here to voice my opposition to the language of HB 544 that was incorporated into HB 2.

Others have voiced the provenance, and importance of such an important topic, but I'll keep it simple and to the point.

Foremost is the tenuous connection that such legislation has to the state's budget. Including the language of HB 544 in HB 2 is just a way to bypass a process in which support is not widespread, as indicated by Governor Sununu's comments on the matter.

Further, I'm disappointed in the party that I have been a member of since I could first cast a ballot in 1984. I'm sure the irony isn't lost on the fact that it's the party that purports to believe in less government, and less regulation, and yet it is exactly that, greater control and increased oversight.

NH prides itself as the Live Free Or Die state, the place where we believe that the individual is responsible enough to do right and not be burdened by state supervision, and yet here we are discussing just that.

I'll conclude by saying that others have testified regarding the potential legal and financial effects that may befall the state should the divisive concepts language be included. I'll appeal to that Yankee pragmatism and simply say that this legislation is a solution in search of a problem, and as such it should not be included in HB 2.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Susan Richman <susan7richman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 3:50 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SB 130 vouchers and Special Education

Dear Debra Martone,

Thank you for accepting this testimony in opposition to education vouchers, or EFAs, that are described in Senate Bill 130.

I have been a public school teacher for over 30 years in Raymond and Exeter, and including 9 years as a Reading Specialist in Rochester.

First, let me discuss Accountability and Homeschooling: I've worked with students who had been homeschooled, who were brought to the public school – in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade – because they had not learned to read. We were able to help those students, but never as fully as if they'd received appropriate reading instruction from Kindergarten on. There is no accountability for home school instruction.

Next: Finances. In Rochester we offered differentiated instruction – special reading groups for struggling readers, enrichment groups for students who soar, as well as for middle-of-the-road ordinary students because every student deserves this small group instruction. But we only had a finite number of reading teachers and paraeducators, so it was hard to accommodate all students; some need 1-on-1 instruction, so some group of students might lose out on strategic reading services. Rochester has a tax cap, so they needed to cut a reading position. I was near retirement, so I volunteered to be the person cut. But that meant 42 students would not be serviced each day, and I would not be supervising and instructing paraeducators, who also could provide special needs services.

Some students who receive an EFA (educational voucher) will require special services – reading, speech, help with autism – not provided by their private school or in home schooling. They are entitled to attend their local public school up to 50% of the school day, to receive those special services and more. But the \$4,000 - \$8,000 of adequacy and differentiated funds allocated for that child's EFA would remain with the private school or the home schooling. That money could have paid for a paraeducator to work with a group of special needs students.

Money equals the ability to offer services to students. That EFT student is removing money from the public school, while receiving their services. After 9 years, that child's public school will have lost about \$50,000 in adequacy and differentiated aid. Services are finite; they cost money. SB 130 needs more consideration, to learn what happens when these educational dollars are taken from our public schools.

Thank you for your consideration of fair, sustainable education funding.

Sincerely,

Susan Richman

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*16 Cowell Drive*

Durham, NH 03824  
603-868-2758

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Kevin Lyness <klyness@antioch.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 3:51 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 544 Language in HB 2

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to urge you to vote to remove from the current budget bill (HB 2) the language from HB 544. This language would have a clear negative effect on educational training programs throughout the state. It violates professional codes of ethics, violates free speech rights, and will result in expensive lawsuits against the state of NH.

I am a professor of Couple and Family Therapy at Antioch University New England in Keene and live in Swanzey--I have been a NH resident for 17 years. I am also a member of the New Hampshire Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and our board and members strongly oppose having this language in the budget bill.

Thank you,

Dr. Kevin Lyness

--

Kevin P. Lyness, Ph.D., LMFT  
Professor, Dept. of Applied Psychology  
Director, PhD Program in CFT  
Antioch University New England  
40 Avon Street  
Keene, NH 03431

[klyness@antioch.edu](mailto:klyness@antioch.edu)  
603-283-2149 - Office phone  
<https://www.antioch.edu/new-england/faculty/kevin-lyness/>  
Pronouns: he/him/his



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Cathy Gray <CGray@cedarcrest4kids.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 4:40 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB 1

I am the Nursing Home Administrator at Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities, a one-of-a-kind pediatric facility in the state employing 105 caring individuals. I appreciate the opportunity to give my perspective around funding for long term care in the state's budget. Long term care is an essential option for families. Not every child nor every adult can remain home with their family. Cedarcrest Center, like other long term care facilities, is a safety net within the state's continuum of care. Children come to us when they are not able to be cared for at home, given the level of medical services required. In other cases there is no safe home for them. Currently a quarter of our children are residents placed by DCYF. These are children who cannot go to a foster home without caregivers receiving significant training. We are here to help the child become medically stable, grow and develop and to train the caregivers. For other children, we are a cost effective step-down from hospital-based care as the child is prepared for a community placement. All providers are important; we need the continuum of care.

In addition to an increasing acuity of care that we are asked to provide, we are in a workforce crisis. It is imperative that we have the resources to pay our staff appropriately. As a state, we have a net loss of Licensed Nursing Assistants. We must be seen as an industry in which you can make a living wage. That is not the case for so many of our staff. The problem for Cedarcrest and other long term care providers is that Medicaid has not kept pace with our costs. Even without the impact of COVID, for those of us who are dependent upon Medicaid, our rates are not enough. Before our last 2% Medicaid increases, Cedarcrest went nine years without an increase. Unfortunately our expenses and those of our staff continued to increase over that time period. The past year has brought many pressures and obstacles and while we appreciate the resources the state provided, we did not have an increase in our Medicaid rate as many states provided.

Especially as we work to recover from the pandemic, please raise Medicaid rates, and also support appropriating American Rescue Plan Act dollars for each licensed bed in order to save many homes from bankruptcy. Those we care for are depending on you.

Thank you, *Cathy Gray*

Cathy Gray, MA, NHA  
President/CEO  
Cedarcrest Center *for* Children with Disabilities  
91 Maple Avenue  
Keene, NH 03431  
603-358-3384  
Fax: 603-358-6485  
[www.cedarcrest4kids.org](http://www.cedarcrest4kids.org)  
Proud member of the Pediatric Complex Care Association

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Qualter, Shaun <shaun.qualter@genesishcc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 5:38 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Medicaid Rate Increases

My name is Shaun Qualter and I am the administrator of Oceanside Center, a skilled nursing facility in Hampton NH. I employ 110 people, and my facility is capable of serving 112 residents. With the pandemic, our census has been reduced to around 75 residents. Our ability to recover census is complicated by the fact that we are required to keep space open to quarantine those who might have COVID-19, which could otherwise serve 20 more residents.

New Hampshire was the only New England state to not raise daily Medicaid rates during the pandemic. We would not have made it this far without federal assistance, much of which came from the state, and the 6.2% in Medicaid rate increases that occurred in the last budget. Those rate increases were a down payment on years of underfunding. They cannot be followed by no rate increases whatsoever as we recover from this pandemic. Please raise Medicaid rates, and also support appropriating American Rescue Plan Act dollars for each licensed bed in order to save us from bankruptcy. I appreciate you taking the time to read this message.

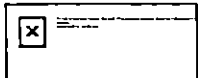
Regards,

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Shaun Qualter | Regional Executive Director |

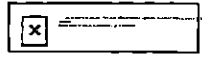
Oceanside Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center | Partridge House |

603-926-4551 | [shaun.qualter@genesishcc.com](mailto:shaun.qualter@genesishcc.com)

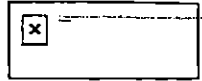


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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Mary Roberge <maks19@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 5:41 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone; Erin Hennessey; Cindy Rosenwald; Bob Giuda; Chuck Morse; Lou D'Allesandro; John Reagan; Gary Daniels

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Good afternoon,

Please find my testimony for the Senate Finance Committee. I had signed up to testify on at the 1 PM session but, unfortunately, was not called. I am hoping I can join at 6 PM.

May 4, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Mary Roberge and I live in Manchester, NH. I am here to ask you to fully fund all services for everyone receiving waived services.

It is less expensive to allocate funds for adequate home care than to pay for institutionalized and/or nursing home care. Home care provides a healthy and safe living environment for those receiving services under the Choices for Independence and disability waivers. The current pandemic emphasizes the importance of ensuring New Hampshire residents, especially the elderly and physically disabled adults, continue to receive services and home care that provides for their well being, safety and independence.

New Hampshire ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in funding home based services for the elderly and adults with physical disabilities.

It is important that services for our seniors and adults with physical disabilities are transparent in the rates that are established. It is equally important our seniors and adults with physical disabilities become eligible for these services in a timely manner.

I would like to add a personal note to my testimony. As a former caregiver, I cannot tell you how much it meant to me and my mother when she became eligible for Home and Community Based services. Because of the assistance provided under the waiver, she remained independent and active and out of a nursing home. Hers is just one story of many New Hampshire residents who benefit from receiving waived services, especially the 50 plus.

Please consider fully funded services for seniors and adults with disabilities are funded comparable to service for other groups receiving similar services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mary A. Roberge  
1023 Merrill Street  
Manchester, NH 03103  
[maks19@hotmail.com](mailto:maks19@hotmail.com)  
603-668-6553 (H)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Anne Marie Olsen-Hayward <aolsenhayw@smhc-nh.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 6:29 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Written Testimony HB

My name is Anne Marie Olsen-Hayward. I am a licensed clinical social worker, a board member for NH NASW and the director of the REAP (Referral Education Assistance and Prevention) program a statewide program which supports older adults, their care partners and the professionals who support them across the state in NH.

Over the last 2 decades I have witnessed firsthand the negative impact due to the shifting state demographics and decline in available community supports for older adults and their care partners. During that time I have worked with thousands of clients and their families who utilize these services.

The majority of older adults and their care partners will state their preference is to stay home and receive services in the community. In NH we are facing issues not only with our paid direct care workforce but also with our informal care partners. In 1970 we had 31 available caregivers for every person requiring support, in 2010 we had 10 available caregivers and in 2050 it is projected we will have only 4 available caregivers for every person requiring. Our medical, mental health and social systems are built on the backs of our paid and unpaid caregivers. Additionally, it is projected that 25% of baby boomers in NH will be considered elder orphans which is defined as an older adult who does not have family who can assist with care, transportation, etc as they age. Programs such as CFI assist older adults desire to stay in their communities. Over the last decade I have watched the waitlist for CFI increase significantly due to workforce shortages, and when client do start services, they are often unable to access all they are eligible for. This puts them at increased risk for poor outcomes and premature institutionalization.

Social isolation is a common issue faced by many older adults and has further been exacerbated by the pandemic. Pre Covid 2,000,000 older adults had not had a conversation with friends or family for a month. 3.9 million older adults agreed the TV was their main form of company. Humans require socialization to survive. When we cannot socialize, we are 50% more likely to die prematurely, 50% higher risk for developing dementia, increased risk for mental health concerns and suicidal ideation. This is increased for care partners of Individuals Living with Dementia.

Over the last year in REAP we have seen a significant increase in referral due to social isolation, depression, anxiety, cognitive decline, need for in home services and care partner stress. The lack of access due to Covid restrictions to Adult Day Services and senior centers which provide needed respite to care partners and socialization and support to client was clearly demonstrated in the rise of referrals.

We ask that the senate support a system of care so we can age at home and in our communities. NH needs a home and community-based service system that works for all of us. Currently there is a patchwork of services which leads to significant gaps and unmet needs. The result is too many of us end up in more expensive, institutional care, when we want to be in our own homes and communities. There are cost effective measures that the Senate can take now.

We encourage the senate to support the governor's budget request to include critical increases in three Medicaid services under the Choices for Independence waiver (CFI): Personal Care, homemaker and case management. Reimbursement rates are not adequate or equitable, which leads to direct service provider shortages.

- Gaps in services means people going without the care they need to get through their daily activities, like bathing and eating.

- Lack of a stable and sufficient home and community-based services system makes transferring from one setting to another more challenging. For example, patients can't be transferred from the hospital to home without adequate supports in place.
- This investment of state dollars over the biennium is a cost-effective way to keep older adults in their community longer. It also allows caregivers to continue working, contributing to their families and the local economy while their loved one is safe.

Help fill the gap in adult medical day services by adding \$4.0 million to the state budget.

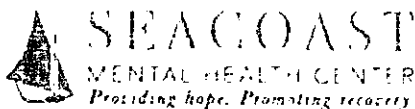
- This investment would bring the reimbursement rate up to \$75.00 per day. Currently the reimbursement rate is \$54.44 per day per client, but the actual cost to provide this service is between \$84.73 to \$107.34. In fact, Veteran's services through the VA pays \$113 per day for veterans to attend one of the 17 Licensed Adult Medical Day Health providers

Restore the governor's \$1.5 million for senior centers to support services to combat struggles with mental health and social isolation.

- During Covid, many centers were not able to continue offering services and programs due to limited staff and volunteers.
- Older adults rely on these services to stay healthy and independent, reduce loneliness and isolation.
- Senior centers also provide transportation options that connect older adults to healthcare and daily activities, as well as food security through congregate meals, home-delivered meals and supplemental foods programs

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Anne Marie Olsen-Hayward, LICSW, CDP  
 Director, REAP  
 Staff Therapist  
 SMHC  
 30 Magnolia Lane  
 Exeter, NH 03833  
 Office: 603-957-5926  
 Cell:603-498-5171  
 Fax: 603-772-4975  
**REAP Referral Line: 603-957-5913**



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May 4, 2021

New Hampshire State Senate  
Senate Finance Committee

RE: Section 372 of HB 2 addressing the state's closed-loop referral system

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

We are writing to respectfully request that you consider removing Section 372 of HB 2, which seeks to delay an important Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) initiative to help vulnerable Granite Staters get access to much needed services faster and more efficiently.

To address the impacts of COVID-19, particularly the isolating effects the pandemic has on vulnerable populations, Unite Us worked with DHHS and Granite United Way to launch a closed-loop referral system throughout New Hampshire aimed at substance use disorder (SUD) care coordination. The closed-loop referral system results in more efficient services to Granite Staters, breaks down barriers to accessing quality care for those citizens who need it the most, and eliminates the trauma that occurs when vulnerable populations have to tell their story multiple times; all while protecting the privacy of the state's citizens. DHHS evaluated several vendors and their ability to quickly respond and provide streamlined access to available services. Unite Us was identified to be the sole provider of a closed-loop referral system that could leverage an informed consent process and the necessary confidentiality controls to ensure compliance with federal HIPAA and 42 CFR Part 2 as it relates to substance use data, as well as the capability to provide timely, outcome-based referrals. Unite Us also holds industry-leading privacy and security certifications, including SOC 2 Type 2, HITRUST, and NIST certifications.

Since the adoption of HB 2 by the House, Unite Us has been working with members of the HHS Oversight Committee as outlined in the bill to provide a comprehensive overview of our privacy protections and informed consent process. As these conversations continue, we believe the language mandating our involvement is unnecessary considering our good faith interactions with vested stakeholders, which we intend to continue.





Unite Us knows that privacy is of paramount importance to Granite Staters, as demonstrated by the overwhelming passage of a state Constitutional Amendment in 2018 establishing a “Right to Privacy.” We stringently comply with all federal privacy guidelines and other applicable laws and take client confidentiality seriously in all jurisdictions in which we conduct business. Every client must provide their consent before a referral can be made on the Unite Us Platform. All referral information is considered confidential, and can only be accessed by agencies within the closed-loop referral system providing care to that specific client. If a client decides not to provide their consent, they can still be referred for services outside of the Unite Us Platform.

Unite Us appreciates your consideration and urges you to consider removing the closed-loop referral system language currently in HB 2. We would be happy to make ourselves available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your time on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Taylor Justice'.

Taylor Justice

Co-Founder and President

Unite Us

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Anna Shultz <annadshultz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 6:50 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone; Anna Shultz  
**Subject:** Hearing HB1- A - increase proposed rate for the CFI program

Good evening,

My name is Anna Shultz and I live in Portsmouth NH and work on the Greater Seacoast as a home health social worker and a private geriatric care manager.

I am writing to you today to support the proposed rate increases for the CFI program. I work with many individuals who are currently part of the CFI program or I am assisting them in applying because of significant care needs due to physical needs or dementia. Many of the individuals I assist are in dire need of more hours to meet the assigned hours by the state. Approximately two years ago I thought to myself, can I report CFI to the state Adult Protective Services program for neglect?

The rate increase would help secure more consistent staff, have a regular schedule of living and ensure the type of help needed to the CFI recipients is available day, night and weekends. The proposed rate increases are needed to make sure people on the CFI program are assisted in their home in order to stay in their home.

I ask the Chair and the members of the finance Committee to support the rate increase to CFI in this budget as it will directly impact your constituents and is the economically sound choice over more costly institutionalized care.

Thank you,  
Anna Shultz, LICSW, CMC

Anna Shultz, LICSW, CMC  
Geriatric Care Manager  
annadshultz@gmail.com  
PO Box 755  
Portsmouth, NH 03802  
603-490-0114

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Kate Frey <kfrey@new-futures.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:29 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Debra Martone; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey  
**Cc:** Michele Merritt  
**Subject:** New Futures Senate budget testimony  
**Attachments:** New Futures Senate Finance budget testimony 5-4-21.pdf; 5point agenda graphic.pdf; 2021-04-26 NF Five Points for a Healthy State Budget Expanded.pdf

May 4, 2021

The Honorable Gary Daniels, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
State House, Room 103  
107 N Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

### Re: **New Futures Comments on HB 1-A and HB 2-A, the House Proposal**

Dear Senator Daniels and Honorable Members of the Committee,

New Futures appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 1-A and HB 2-A, the House of Representatives Budget Proposal. New Futures is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates, educates and collaborates to improve the health and wellness of all New Hampshire residents. In this role, we work extensively with policy makers, service providers and families to enact policies that promote public health, address alcohol and other drug issues, and increase healthy early childhood development throughout the Granite State.

Before we explain our funding priorities, we feel it is important to outline several harmful provisions included in the House budget including:

- Abolishing the Enforcement Division of the N.H. Liquor Commission, jeopardizing the safe operation of alcohol establishments,
- Banning dissemination of certain “divisive concepts” like unconscious bias related to sex and race that are critical to addressing public health disparities across New Hampshire,
- Defunding essential health reproductive health care providers during a pandemic, and
- Eliminating \$50 million and 226 positions from the state Department of Health and Human Services in “back of the budget” cuts that could limit our ability to overcome COVID-19 and respond to future public health crises.

We look to the Senate and the Governor to put an end to these detrimental policies which would be a step backwards for the health and wellness of New Hampshire residents.

As a public health policy and advocacy organization, it is our responsibility to educate, raise awareness, and lead policy changes related to health and well-being. This past summer, New Futures surveyed hundreds of NH residents from across the state to obtain a better understanding of community needs during this unprecedented time. From this feedback we formed **New Futures’ Five-Point Plan for a Healthy State Budget (attached)**. The following five initiatives, if fully funded in the NH state budget, will go far to address issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, overcome health disparities for historically marginalized groups, and prevent adverse health impacts on NH’s children and families. Collectively, we call on New Hampshire policymakers to prioritize the following areas in the NH state budget:

- 1) Supporting critical local and state public health programs and services.**
- 2) Ensuring access to health care by supporting a strong health care workforce.**
- 3) Supporting efforts to sustain and grow behavioral health services.**

**4) Sustaining investments that help mitigate and prevent childhood trauma to help Granite State children and families thrive.**

**5) Protecting children's behavioral health programs and services to ensure coordinated and timely care for Granite State youth.**

While the Governor and the House proposed budget covers numerous provisions of our Five Point Plan, plan, there are other areas that require additional attention and support, including needed investments in community health workers, New Hampshire's health care workforce, youth prevention programs and family supports.

**Community Health Workers in Each Public Health Network**

Community health workers, which help to coordinate and facilitate health and social services in their communities, are critical to the health of our state and our communities. The deployment of Community Health Workers across communities in the state was a recommendation from the Governor's COVID-19 Equity Response Team report published in July 2020. There is a large body of research gathered over the last fifty years relative to the effectiveness of Community Health Workers in improving health outcomes, reducing health care costs, and bridging gaps in health disparities. A recent case-controlled study found that when Community Health Workers addressed the needs of disadvantaged people in the Medicaid program a return of \$2.47 was realized for each dollar spent.<sup>[1]</sup> Total savings for the 150 people served for that year was \$1.4 million dollars. If New Hampshire were to experience a similar result, these positions would pay for themselves in the first year.

**New Futures asks the Senate Finance committee to include \$1.2 million over the biennium in the Department of Health and Human Services' budget to support a Community Health Worker position at each of the state's 13 public health networks.**

**Student Loan Repayment**

New Hampshire's State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) provides loan repayment funds to health care professionals working in areas designated as "medically underserved." These funds represent a critical investment helping to recruit and retain workers in regions facing severe shortages of primary care, behavioral health, and other critical care providers. More than 80 percent of professionals who participate in SLRP remain in New Hampshire beyond their initial three-year commitment. In addition to the \$766,000 included in the Governor's proposal, the additional funding allocated to SLRP in the current budget must remain non-lapsing to support additional healthcare workers in the coming years. Further, plans to expand SLRP eligibility to mental health and dental providers must remain in place to help bring needed workers into these fields.

**New Futures asks the Senate Finance committee to increase SLRP funding OR make unspent SLRP funds in the current budget non-lapsing and allow them to remain with the program during the next budget cycle.**

**Tobacco Cessation and Prevention**

In New Hampshire, there has been rapid increase in Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) or e-cigarette products among high school aged youth. The 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) shows that currently 33.8% of high school students report they have used e-cigarettes in the 30 days prior to taking the YRBS, higher than the national average at 32.7%. The DHHS-Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Unit requested an additional \$220,000 for additional prioritized need in its agency budget to continue funding an adolescent tobacco helpline specializing in adolescent vaping. My Life, My Quit™ combines best practices for youth tobacco cessation, adapted to include vaping, and new ways to reach a coach using live text messaging and online chat. The funding was not part of the Governor's budget proposal and we urge the House Finance committee to provide \$220,000 for the Department's prioritized need.

**New Futures asks the Senate Finance committee to fully fund the Department of Health and Services' request of \$220,000 per year for the My Life, My Quit tobacco prevention and cessation program.**

**Early Childhood Supports and Services:**

In New Hampshire, we are struggling with multiple crises impacting the health and wellness of our children; the COVID-19 pandemic, substance misuse, mental health, and child abuse and neglect. These situations cause toxic

stress and can have long-term, negative consequences on the health and well-being of our children and families. Primary prevention services, such as access to affordable quality childcare, home visiting, community collaborations and family supports programs at Family Resource Centers, not only mitigate the impact of trauma but, more importantly, help families before the point of crisis. Unfortunately, \$1.3 million per year was cut from the Department of Health and Human Services budget that would support these primary prevention programming. We were pleased to see that in Governor's Sununu's letter on March 4, 2021, he requests the House Finance Committee to restore these funds with the additional expected revenues and we urge the committee to do the same.

**New Futures asks the Senate Finance committee to restore \$1.37 million per year for Family Resource Centers and primary prevention programs within the Department of Health and Human Services' budget.**

We thank the Committee for your consideration of these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michele D. Merritt, Esq., President & CEO, New Futures



***Kate Frey***

Vice President of Advocacy, New Futures, Inc.

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<sup>(i)</sup> Evidence-Based Community Health Worker Program Addresses Unmet Social Needs And Generates Positive Return On Investment



advocate • educate • collaborate  
to improve the health and wellness of all Granite Staters

May 4, 2021

The Honorable Gary Daniels, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
State House, Room 103  
107 N Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

**Re: New Futures Comments on HB 1-A and HB 2-A, the House Proposal**

Dear Senator Daniels and Honorable Members of the Committee,

New Futures appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 1-A and HB 2-A, the House of Representatives Budget Proposal. New Futures is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates, educates and collaborates to improve the health and wellness of all New Hampshire residents. In this role, we work extensively with policy makers, service providers and families to enact policies that promote public health, address alcohol and other drug issues, and increase healthy early childhood development throughout the Granite State.

Before we explain our funding priorities, we feel it is important to outline several harmful provisions included in the House budget including:

- Abolishing the Enforcement Division of the N.H. Liquor Commission, jeopardizing the safe operation of alcohol establishments,
- Banning dissemination of certain “divisive concepts” like unconscious bias related to sex and race that are critical to addressing public health disparities across New Hampshire,
- Defunding essential health reproductive health care providers during a pandemic, and
- Eliminating \$50 million and 226 positions from the state Department of Health and Human Services in “back of the budget” cuts that could limit our ability to overcome COVID-19 and respond to future public health crises.

We look to the Senate and the Governor to put an end to these detrimental policies which would be a step backwards for the health and wellness of New Hampshire residents.

As a public health policy and advocacy organization, it is our responsibility to educate, raise awareness, and lead policy changes related to health and well-being. This past summer, New Futures surveyed hundreds of NH residents from across the state to obtain a better understanding of community needs during this unprecedented time. From this feedback we formed **New Futures’ Five-Point Plan for a Healthy State Budget (attached)**. The following five initiatives, if fully funded in the NH state budget, will go far to address issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, overcome health disparities for historically marginalized groups, and prevent adverse health impacts on NH’s children and families. Collectively, we call on New Hampshire policymakers to prioritize the following areas in the NH state budget:

- 1) Supporting critical local and state public health programs and services.
- 2) Ensuring access to health care by supporting a strong health care workforce.
- 3) Supporting efforts to sustain and grow behavioral health services.
- 4) Sustaining investments that help mitigate and prevent childhood trauma to help Granite State children and families thrive.
- 5) Protecting children's behavioral health programs and services to ensure coordinated and timely care for Granite State youth.

While the Governor and the House proposed budget covers numerous provisions of our Five Point Plan, plan, there are other areas that require additional attention and support, including needed investments in community health workers, New Hampshire's health care workforce, youth prevention programs and family supports.

#### **Community Health Workers in Each Public Health Network**

Community health workers, which help to coordinate and facilitate health and social services in their communities, are critical to the health of our state and our communities. The deployment of Community Health Workers across communities in the state was a recommendation from the Governor's COVID-19 Equity Response Team report published in July 2020. There is a large body of research gathered over the last fifty years relative to the effectiveness of Community Health Workers in improving health outcomes, reducing health care costs, and bridging gaps in health disparities. A recent case-controlled study found that when Community Health Workers addressed the needs of disadvantaged people in the Medicaid program a return of \$2.47 was realized for each dollar spent.<sup>1</sup> Total savings for the 150 people served for that year was \$1.4 million dollars. If New Hampshire were to experience a similar result, these positions would pay for themselves in the first year.

**New Futures asks the Senate Finance committee to include \$1.2 million over the biennium in the Department of Health and Human Services' budget to support a Community Health Worker position at each of the state's 13 public health networks.**

#### **Student Loan Repayment**

New Hampshire's State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) provides loan repayment funds to health care professionals working in areas designated as "medically underserved." These funds represent a critical investment helping to recruit and retain workers in regions facing severe shortages of primary care, behavioral health, and other critical care providers. More than 80 percent of professionals who participate in SLRP remain in New Hampshire beyond their initial three-year commitment. In addition to the \$766,000 included in the Governor's proposal, the additional funding allocated to SLRP in the current budget must remain non-lapsing to support additional healthcare workers in the coming years. Further, plans to expand SLRP eligibility to mental health and dental providers must remain in place to help bring needed workers into these fields.

**New Futures asks the Senate Finance committee to increase SLRP funding OR make unspent SLRP funds in the current budget non-lapsing and allow them to remain with the program during the next budget cycle.**

**Tobacco Cessation and Prevention**

In New Hampshire, there has been rapid increase in Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) or e-cigarette products among high school aged youth. The 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) shows that currently 33.8% of high school students report they have used e-cigarettes in the 30 days prior to taking the YRBS, higher than the national average at 32.7%. The DHHS-Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Unit requested an additional \$220,000 for additional prioritized need in its agency budget to continue funding an adolescent tobacco helpline specializing in adolescent vaping. My Life, My Quit™ combines best practices for youth tobacco cessation, adapted to include vaping, and new ways to reach a coach using live text messaging and online chat. The funding was not part of the Governor's budget proposal and we urge the House Finance committee to provide \$220,000 for the Department's prioritized need.

**New Futures asks the Senate Finance committee to fully fund the Department of Health and Services' request of \$220,000 per year for the My Life, My Quit tobacco prevention and cessation program.**


**Early Childhood Supports and Services:**

In New Hampshire, we are struggling with multiple crises impacting the health and wellness of our children; the COVID-19 pandemic, substance misuse, mental health, and child abuse and neglect. These situations cause toxic stress and can have long-term, negative consequences on the health and well-being of our children and families. Primary prevention services, such as access to affordable quality childcare, home visiting, community collaborations and family supports programs at Family Resource Centers, not only mitigate the impact of trauma but, more importantly, help families before the point of crisis. Unfortunately, \$1.3 million per year was cut from the Department of Health and Human Services budget that would support these primary prevention programming. We were pleased to see that in Governor's Sununu's letter on March 4, 2021, he requests the House Finance Committee to restore these funds with the additional expected revenues and we urge the committee to do the same.

**New Futures asks the Senate Finance committee to restore \$1.37 million per year for Family Resource Centers and primary prevention programs within the Department of Health and Human Services' budget.**

We thank the Committee for your consideration of these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele D. Merritt, Esq., President & CEO, New Futures

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<sup>1</sup> Evidence-Based Community Health Worker Program Addresses Unmet Social Needs And Generates Positive Return On Investment



# FIVE-POINTS FOR A HEALTHY STATE BUDGET: HOUSE-PASSED BUDGET




1. SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS & SERVICES

|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORKS<br> | COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS<br> | NO-COST STATE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM<br> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

2. GROW NH'S HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

|                                                                                                             |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT<br> | RURAL HEALTH CARE<br> | MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT<br> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

3. SUSTAIN & GROW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

|                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GRANITE HEALTH ADVANTAGE & ALCOHOL FUND<br> | SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT & RECOVERY PROGRAMS<br> | TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CESSATION<br> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

4. STRENGTHEN GRANITE STATE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

|                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  | <b>KEY:</b><br> <i>Funded in House Budget</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

5. ENSURE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

|                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  <i>Not Funded</i>    |
|                                                                                     |                                                                                      |  <i>Needs More \$</i> |

# new futures

## **FIVE-POINT PLAN FOR A HEALTHY NH STATE BUDGET (SFY 2022 - 2023)**

*As a public health policy and advocacy organization, it is our responsibility to educate, raise awareness, and lead policy changes to improve health equity. The following five initiatives seek to address the COVID-19 pandemic, improve racial health disparities for historically marginalized groups, and ensure the health of all Granite Staters now and into the future.*

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### **FIVE INITIATIVES:**

1. Support public health programs and services. *Pages 2 - 3*
2. Grow NH's health care workforce. *Pages 4 - 5*
3. Sustain and grow behavioral health services. *Pages 6 - 8*
4. Strengthen Granite State children and families. *Pages 9 - 10*
5. Ensure behavioral health services for children. *Pages 11 - 12*



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**INITIATIVE #1- SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

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- **Preserve and increase funds for local and state public health services.**
- **Fund Community Health Worker position at each Public Health Network**
- **Create an equitable and no-cost essential adult immunization program.**

**Background:**

**Regional Public Health Networks**

- In July 2013, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) established a strategic partnership to align multiple regional and local public health entities into one integrated system of Regional Public Health Networks (RPHN). These networks, hosted by 13 agencies across the state, integrate multiple public health initiatives and services into a common system of community stakeholders in each of New Hampshire's ten counties. They play a pivotal role developing Community Health Improvement Plans, delivering key substance use prevention services, and overall helping to improve communication and coordination between public health services across the state.

**Community Health Workers**

- Community Health Workers (CHW) are frontline liaisons helping to coordinate healthcare and social services across local communities. As a trusted member of their communities, CHWs improve access, quality and cultural competence of services. They help build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities, including outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

**New Hampshire Immunization Program**

- New Hampshire's current Immunization Program (IP) allows the state to purchase vaccinations at a discounted price. Through a combination of federal, state, and insurance funds, Granite State children, from birth through age 18, can receive all routinely recommended vaccines at no cost to the family or the health care provider. In addition, uninsured adults may access vaccines at no cost from enrolled and participating providers. HB 604 would expand the program to include all adults, ages 19-64. For the expanded adult portion of the program, no state funds would be utilized. The funds contributed by the insurers would cover the cost of the vaccine and the increased

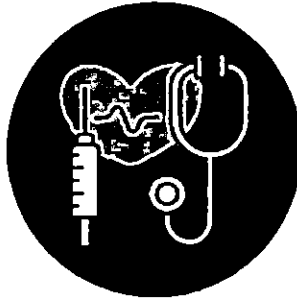
administrative costs to DHHS to run the program. This would include any new positions that needed to be created.

**Why is this important?**

- New Hampshire's RPHNs are a critical piece of the state's public health infrastructure, ensuring adequate and timely responses to any and all public health emergencies. Looking ahead, the networks will be even more vital as the state works to develop a performance-based delivery system that provides the 10 Essential Public Health Services, as defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which includes the assessment and monitoring of population health status; the investigation and diagnosis of health problems and hazards; and the creation and implementation of policies, plans and laws that impact health, among other services. This requires sufficient funding and staffing capacity.
- Research shows that CHWs can effectively improve health outcomes, reduce health care costs, and bridge gaps in health disparities. A recent study found that when CHWs addressed the needs of Medicaid recipients, a return of \$2.47 was realized for each dollar spent. The deployment of CHWs across the state was a recommendation of the Governor's COVID-19 Equity Response Team.
- Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever that all Granite Staters have immediate access to no cost vaccines. Expanding the state's Immunization Program will extend access to COVID, flu, pneumococcal, and other CDC-approved vaccines to all adults, ages 19-64, at no cost to the family or care provider. This will go far to meet the state's goal of reducing or eliminating all preventable diseases, and could help to overcome barriers, including lack of insurance coverage, that have historically led to lower vaccinations rates among many communities of color.

**What needs to happen?**

- Secure sufficient and adequate funding for the Regional Public Health Networks in the state budget (FUND 010 AGENCY 090 ACCOUNTING UNIT 80110000 PREVENTIVE HEALTH BLOCK GRANT and FUND 010 AGENCY 090 ACCOUNTING UNIT 11140000 PH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS)
- Include funding to support a Community Support Worker at each Public Health Network. (Funding does not currently exist in the budget would need to be added where appropriate)
- Expand the New Hampshire Immunization Program to include adults, which will not require any additional state funds; (additional federal or insurance funds will need to be reflected in the state budget (FUND 010 AGENCY 090 ACCOUNTING UNIT 51770000 FUND 010 AGENCY 090 ACCOUNTING UNIT 51780000))



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**INITIATIVE #2 - GROW NH'S HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE**

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- **Invest in student loan repayment for health care professionals working in underserved areas.**
- **Maintain and increase funding for medically underserved areas of the state.**
- **Support adequate Medicaid Reimbursement rates to expand access to quality, affordable care.**

**Background:**

**Student Loan Repayment**

- New Hampshire's State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) provides loan repayment funds to health care professionals working in areas designated as "medically underserved." These funds represent a critical investment helping to recruit and retain workers in regions facing severe shortages of primary, behavioral and other care providers. More than 80 percent of professionals who participate in SLRP remain in New Hampshire beyond their initial three-year commitment.

**Rural Health Care**

- The Rural Health and Primary Care (RHPC) office of the NH Department of Public Health works to ensure all Granite State residents have access to healthcare services by supporting workforce needs in the state's rural areas. The RHPC provides technical assistance to organizations and communities regarding the necessary steps for shortage designation (which allows providers the opportunity to participate in a variety of different state and federal programs, such as qualifying loan forgiveness) and maintains communication with healthcare providers on program eligibility and the application process. The RHPC is also responsible for maintaining and updating existing shortage designations and applying for new ones.
- New Hampshire's State Office of Rural Health (SORH) offers technical assistance and provides critical information and updates to rural care providers and organizations in medically underserved areas. SORH serves as a liaison between rural healthcare organizations and many DHHS programs.

**Medicaid Reimbursement**

- In the current budget cycle, New Hampshire health care providers received 3.1 percent increases in Medicaid reimbursements for each year of the biennium. Maintaining these rate increases, which have built upon some of the lowest rates in the country, is essential to supporting our health care

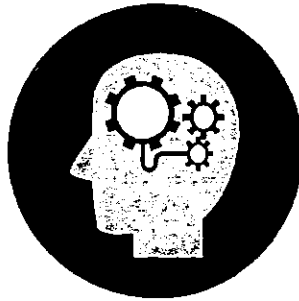
providers and continuing to address the workforce shortages that are limiting access to care across the state, during and after the COVID-19 crisis.

**Why is this important?**

- The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and exacerbated New Hampshire's ongoing healthcare workforce shortage. Hospital capacity has been stretched thin throughout this public health crisis due in part to workforce shortages, and rising levels of stress and anxiety heavily impacted substance use and mental health treatment providers, as well. Rural areas of the state, which faced severe staffing shortages prior to the pandemic, have been hit especially hard. LRGHealthcare in Laconia recently filed for bankruptcy, showing the fragility of New Hampshire's rural healthcare system. Further investments are needed to reinforce rural care and to boost workforce all across the state.
- Addressing health care workforce issues will allow those in rural areas of the state access to the right care at the right time and in the right place. Additionally, this will reduce barriers to quality, affordable health care, such as transportation and access issues.

**What needs to happen?**

- Maintain allocation of \$6.5 million in State Loan Repayment Program funds for the biennium. This would fund about 200 new provider SLRP contracts, which would entice out-of-state providers to relocate to NH to work in underserved areas. (FUND 010 AGENCY 090 ACCOUNTING UNIT 79650000 RURAL HEALTH & PRIMARY CARE)
- Assure adequate budget funding to support the State Office Rural Office. (FUND 010 AGENCY 090 ACCOUNTING UNIT 79650000 RURAL HEALTH & PRIMARY CARE)
- Maintain increases to Medicaid reimbursement rates included in the 2020-2021 biennial budget. (FUND 010 AGENCY 047 ACCOUNTING UNIT 79480000 MEDICAID MANAGED CARE)



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**INITIATIVE #3 - SUSTAIN & GROW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

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- Continue to fully finance the Alcohol Fund and Medicaid Expansion to ensure critical substance use disorder services.
- Ensure sustainability and solvency for substance use treatment and recovery programs.
  - Invest in evidence-based prevention programs.

**Background:**

**Alcohol Fund**

- Financed through a small portion of the revenues generated through liquor sales, the Alcohol Fund has historically provided for substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts identified as priorities by the Governor’s Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs. The intent behind the creation of the Alcohol Fund in 2000 was that a small portion, (5 percent), of the very substantial revenues generated through the sale of alcohol, an addictive substance that when misused imposes a significant burden on society, would be dedicated to addressing the problems caused by alcohol and drugs. For more than a decade the Fund was historically underfunded or diverted elsewhere. However in 2018, per the passage of SB 313, reauthorizing Medicaid Expansion, the Alcohol Fund statute was amended to increase the amount to 5 percent and transfer those funds to the New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Trust Fund, for the required state share for the Granite Advantage Health program (Medicaid Expansion). This left a hole in the budget for crucial funding of prevention, treatment and recovery programs. Fortunately, New Hampshire’s 26 hospitals stepped in to backfill the Alcohol Fund until 2023, securing critical statewide substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery contracts.

**Medicaid Expansion**

- Since it first launched in 2014, New Hampshire’s Medicaid Expansion program has provided health coverage, including access to substance use and mental health treatment, for hundreds of thousands of Granite Staters. The program covers individuals and families earning up to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (\$17,600 for an individual; \$36,150 for a family of four). It was extended in 2016 for two additional years, and re-authorized once again in 2018 for five more years. Medicaid Expansion is currently set to expire in 2023.

**Sustainability and solvency for substance use treatment and recovery programs**

- Boosted by state and federal resources, New Hampshire has expanded access to substance use treatment to thousands of Granite Staters in recent years. The State has continued to build upon its system of substance use treatment providers and prevention programs, and has established a network of 17 recovery centers to serve those in need. Together, these efforts have contributed to a meaningful decline in the number of overdose deaths over the last three years, and with needed support, these programs will continue to help the state overcome the addiction and mental health crises.

**Prevention**

- Evidence-informed prevention efforts across the lifespan are critical and the most cost-effective way to prevent a new generation of individuals from misusing substances. Thanks to a commitment from private funders and renewed federal and state investments in prevention, New Hampshire’s 13 Regional Public Health Networks are actively working with multiple organizations within their communities to employ evidence-informed prevention practices, programs and policies proven to curb youth substance misuse. In addition to New Hampshire’s public health infrastructure, there are community-based coalitions across the state working to provide education and support services for youth and families to minimize risk and intervene early in order to prevent problems associated with substance misuse. New Hampshire’s army of prevention professionals need continued and expanded support and resources, now more than ever, to continue the crucial and multi-faceted work of prevention with the additional behavioral health challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Why is this important?**

- Currently, more than 60,000 individuals are enrolled in Medicaid Expansion, and more than 10,500 individuals used the program to access substance use treatment between July 2019 and July 2020.
- The critical programs funded in whole or in part by the NH Governor’s Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs in 2020 include;
  - PREVENTION
    - SMART Moves
    - Life of an Athlete
    - Juvenile Court Diversion
    - Direct Prevention Services
    - School Climate Transformation
  - TREATMENT
    - Peer Family Support Services
    - SUD Treatment Services
    - Regional Access Points
    - Ambulatory MAT
  - RECOVERY
    - Recovery Support Centers



○ FULL CONTINUUM

- Training, Technical Assistance and Evaluation & Data Support
- According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, New Hampshire has some of the highest rates of substance misuse among youth and young adults in the country. In addition, a September JAMA Network Open shows that American adults, particularly women, are drinking more amid the COVID-19 pandemic and that alcohol consumption has increased by 14 percent compared to a year ago. Social distancing and isolation have resulted in increased mental health struggles for both youth and adults in New Hampshire.

**What needs to happen?**

- In SFY 2022 and 2023 ensure \$10 million is included in the state operating budget for funding of prevention, treatment and recovery contracts. (FUND 010-AGENCY-092-ACCOUNTING UNIT-3382000- GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION FUNDS)
- Maintain full funding for the Granite Advantage Health Care Program (Medicaid Expansion) as outlined in RSA 126-AA:
- Support funding for evidence-informed substance misuse prevention strategies and programs. (FUND 010 AGENCY 092 ACCOUNTING UNIT 33800000- PREVENTION SERVICES and FUND 010 AGENCY 090 ACCOUNTING UNIT 56080000 TOBACCO PREVENTION & CESSATION)
- Maintain Medicaid Reimbursement rates at Fiscal Year 2020-2021 levels for substance use treatment and all healthcare providers. (FUND 010 AGENCY 047 ACCOUNTING UNIT 79480000 MEDICAID MANAGED CARE)
- Restore full funding to Recovery Community Organizations for Fiscal Year 2021; maintain level funding for Fiscal Years 2022, 2023. (FUND 010-AGENCY-092-ACCOUNTING UNIT 33840000- CLINICAL SERVICES)
- Ensure timely processing of all State Opioid Response grants and other federal funds to substance use treatment and recovery providers. (FUND 010-AGENCY-092-ACCOUNTING UNIT-70400000 STATE OPIOID RESPONSE GRANT)

**Additional information:**

- <https://nhcenterforexcellence.org/governors-commission/>



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**INITIATIVE #4 STRENGTHEN GRANITE STATE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

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- **Protect investments in NH's Childcare Scholarship Program to ensure access to quality childcare.**
- **Support Family Resource Centers and Home Visiting programs to prevent and mitigate childhood trauma.**

**Background:**

**Childcare Scholarship Program**

- The Childcare scholarship program is a critical support for low income working families earning up to 220 percent of the federal poverty level. It provides a subsidy to reduce the costs of childcare which enables parents to work and children to thrive in a learning environment. In the last budget, New Hampshire increased investment in the state's childcare scholarship program by \$15 million, recognizing how impactful access to childcare is to New Hampshire's economy and the health of Granite State families.

**Family Resource Centers of Quality and Home Visiting**

- Family Resource Centers (FRCs), located throughout the state, are built on a research-based framework of family support, which focuses on helping families build on their own strengths and access resources that are available in their communities to further their well-being. FRCs work in communities to create the conditions that promote healthy development and family well-being. Because these centers are embedded in communities, the programs are tailored to the needs of the community they serve, and so are both flexible and responsive to family and community needs.
- Home Visiting programs, in which skilled professionals like nurses and social workers provide support to families in their own homes, are proven to work. These programs strengthen parenting skills, reduce poverty and child maltreatment, and help reduce the negative long-term consequences of adverse childhood experiences. They also reduce health care costs to the state and increase family self-sufficiency.
- Recognizing the importance of these programs, New Hampshire made investments into both Family Resource Centers and Home Visiting programs to expand access to more children and families. The state invests \$650,000 per biennium to the system of FRCs, but leverages over \$3 million of additional federal funds through grants and programs which elevate and expand critical services.

- Through legislation, New Hampshire expanded access to Medicaid Home Visiting from just first time moms under the age of 21 to all Medicaid-eligible families and supported the rule change through a budget allocation.

**Why is this important?**

- The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the stability of our childcare programs and pushed providers and families to the edge of uncertainty. As “Safer At Home” orders were issued, it became clear just how essential childcare is to our state, our children and our communities. The State, through the emergency childcare collaborative, was able to utilize federal funds and maximize the childcare subsidy program to stabilize the field. Access to high-quality childcare is not only important to the economy, but it is a critical intervention in the mitigation of early childhood trauma.
- Countless studies have shown us that early experiences literally shape the architecture of the developing brain. Certain experiences, including abuse, neglect, parental substance use, conflict within the home, incarceration of a parent, and poverty, are so severe or chronic that they produce toxic stress in children, which damages developing brain architecture, leading to lifelong problems in health, learning and behavior. Those who experience multiple adverse situations early in life are at a substantially greater risk for physical and mental health issues such as substance misuse.
- Research has also demonstrated that early childhood investment and interventions, including quality childcare programs, Home Visiting and Family Resource Centers of Quality, can dramatically alter a child’s life trajectory in a positive way. Prevention interventions focused not only on the child but on those who care for the child, as well. These programs are essential in the prevention and mitigation of childhood trauma and provide multi-generational support that enables families to thrive.

**What needs to happen?**

- Ensure funding for the childcare scholarship program and direct financial supports to childcare centers to offset impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on operations. (FUND 010 AGENCY 042 ACCOUNTING UNIT 29780000 CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT)
- Maintain funding for Home Visiting programs and Family Resource Centers. (Various lines in DHHS budget: FUND 010 AGENCY 090 ACCOUNTING UNIT 58960000 HOME VISITING FORMULA GRANT, FUND 010 AGENCY 090 ACCOUNTING UNIT 70470000 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION and FUND 010 AGENCY 045 ACCOUNTING UNIT 7216000 KINSHIP GRANT)
- Pass SB 140 to provide critical funding to the Department of Health and Human Services to support primary prevention services for families (funding does not currently exist in the budget would need to be added where appropriate).



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**INITIATIVE #5 - ENSURE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN**

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- **Protect investment in mobile crisis and other community-based services outlined in the System of Care.**
- **Maintain funding to support Behavioral Health services in schools under the Multi-Tiered System of Supports framework.**
  - **Ensure access to emergency and clinically appropriate residential care for children.**

**Background:**

**System of Care**

- New Hampshire's System of Care (SOC) law, first passed in 2016 and strengthened through statute in 2019, required the State to develop and maintain an integrated and comprehensive service delivery system for children with behavioral health needs. The System, as outlined in RSA 135-F, takes a systemic approach to improving child welfare and ensuring children and youth get appropriate support services where and when they need them. Supports like mobile crisis response services are cost-effective and reduce the need for otherwise costly residential services.
- Specifically, the SOC law helps children and families in crisis by expanding access to community-based mobile crisis response and stabilization services; it further integrates child welfare services with the System of Care for children's behavioral health; it makes improvements to the quality of the community-based system of supports and services using the System of Care values and principles by adding a trauma-informed value to the system; and it makes improvements to our child welfare system in alignment with the DCYF Adequacy and Enhancement Assessment the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, and the 10-year Mental Health Plan, and creates connections between court-involved children and the System of Care.

**Multi-Tiered System of Supports for Behavioral Health and Wellness**

- MTSS-B is an evidence-based prevention framework designed to support students' social, emotional, and behavioral health needs. This model, which has been implemented in schools throughout the state, helps districts to access and implement a wide system of evidence-based behavioral practices for all students, a targeted system of practices for youth who need support, and a tertiary system of intensive and individualized interventions for students with the greatest behavioral needs. This framework is not prescriptive but helps districts to better identify the behavioral health needs of their students and implement strategies and services that are appropriate for their own communities.

- The benefits of MTSS-B are well documented. Throughout New Hampshire schools, implementation of the framework has led to improved student attendance, reduced discipline referrals, increased family involvement, enhanced overall behavioral health and improved academic achievement, among other positive outcomes. The model has been recommended in the state's 10-Year Mental Health Plan, the Governor's School Safety Preparedness Task Force's 2018 report, and most recently, the N.H. Juvenile Reform Project's "Keeping Kids in School" report.
- The N.H. Department of Education supports the implementation of MTSS-B through the Office of Social and Emotional Wellness.

**Why is this important?**

- Children do best with a coordinated system of supports to grow up safe and healthy. Studies have consistently shown that community-based interventions such as mobile crisis can help to keep children in their own communities and schools, as well as reduce long term costs such as emergency room treatment, police and court involvement and residential placement.
- Cost savings from increasing access to these community-based services can be utilized in other systems such as the child protection and juvenile justice system. They can also be used to divert youth with behavioral health needs from entering the juvenile justice system.

**What needs to happen?**

- Ensure funding and implementation of statewide mobile crisis response and stabilization and other services and programs in compliance with RSA 135-F. (FUND 010 AGENCY 092 ACCOUNTING UNIT 20530000 SYSTEM OF CARE)
- Secure needed funding to provide community-based services and alternatives to emergency room treatment for children with behavioral health needs. (FUND 010 AGENCY 092 ACCOUNTING UNIT 20530000 SYSTEM OF CARE)
- Maintain funding for the Department of Education's Office of Social and Emotional Wellness to provide technical assistance to schools as they implement the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSSB). (FUND 010 AGENCY 056 ACCOUNTING UNIT 10740000 STUDENT WELLNESS GOV COMM)

**Debra Martone**

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**From:** Tom Akey <thomas.m.akey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:54 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Support of Save Our Granite Stages Act

Dear Committee Members,

I'd like to supply this written testimony - I am in support of the Save Our Granite Stages Act which has been included in the budget. This critically important bill will provide much-needed support for artists and musicians in New Hampshire.

Thanks,  
Tom

--  
Tom Akey  
[thomas.m.akey@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.m.akey@gmail.com)

**Linked** 

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Barbara H Cooper <barbarahcooper@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:02 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Testimony for presentation at Senate Finance Committee Hearing today  
**Attachments:** confirmed sign up to speak at HR1 hearing 5-4-2021.docx; nh senate finance remote hearing 5-4-2021.docx

Hello Debra,

I appreciate your help by phone earlier today. I did see confirmation that I had signed up to speak at the hearing, and I did hear my name read by Chairman Daniels just now shortly before 8 o'clock. However I was unable to deliver my testimony due to technical difficulties. I did see a participant id of 5812460 on my screen, and I did try to use the raise hand signal, but I was unsuccessful in determining how to execute the unmute. I hope I can find some help to address this as I would like to participate again at some point in the future. I am therefore including my written testimony below. I appreciate the committee being able to include my written testimony with the other testimonies that were given this evening.

Thank you.

My testimony:

First let me thank Chairman Daniels and the committee for giving me the opportunity to speak. The reason I am testifying today is to object to the inclusion of HR544 into the budget bill. I have been following news coverage of this important bill and I am extremely concerned that should this bill pass, it will have very detrimental consequences for the state.

I want to speak from my own personal experience about what it feels like to be a black person in such an environment.

Who will judge what is divisive? What is the history of our state and country if not a continuing struggle to find ways to deal with divisive issues? Prohibiting talking about them, teaching about them, or acknowledging them will not take these issues away.

I will never forget a full-page story in the university newspaper from my graduate school days – “Keep’um ignunt” the title said. It was a statement made in opposition to education for freed slaves. This bill sounds too much like that to me, except it is not slaves that will be kept ignorant, it’s us, it’s the population of the state of New Hampshire, and our children. Is teaching about the lynching of black people in the south divisive? What would you have? Ignore it? Pretend it didn’t happen? What about the civil war? This bill sounds to me like a bad and sinister strategy. We need to talk and learn about these things, not make it illegal to do so.

When I was a child, my parents wanted to improve our lives in Pennsylvania where we lived. Levittown was a new development advertised in the newspaper. My dad worked 2 fulltime jobs at the time, I was in elementary school. We went to an open house of a nearby Levittown development - pretty brand-new houses. We were excited. My dad and my mom came back despondent. When I asked whether we would be moving there I was told not to ask about that anymore, it’s not going to happen. It was not until I was an adult that I learned that racially exclusive language had been written into the contracts to exclude blacks from purchasing. Should we not teach our full history in schools and universities? Should we legally suppress discussion of past injustices? Our history is what has got us, each one of us, to the very spots we were in today, my history as well as your history.

I want New Hampshire to play a part in continuing to build an inclusive, democratic society in which we are all valued, **and** in which risk and opportunity are not disproportionately distributed by race and sex. New Hampshire has the talent to lead the way. I have seen it. HR544 and its disastrous and insulting goal of stifling teaching about divisive issues is a step in the wrong direction. The ambiguous and contradictory words in this bill must not become law in New Hampshire. We deserve better.

<<...>> <<...>>

Barbara Holland Cooper

336 Four Cor

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Springfield, NH 03284

Home: 603-763-9286

Mobile: 603-229-2113



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Marie Morgan <mmorgangoffstown@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 8:24 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone; Gary Daniels; Bob Giuda; John Reagan; Erin Hennessey; Chuck Morse; Lou D'Allesandro; Cindy Rosenwald  
**Subject:** HB1 and HB 2 Opposition May 4, 2021  
**Attachments:** SB 130 MM Review 3.17.21.docx

To the Honorable Senators on the NH State Senate Finance Committee:

1. I oppose any line in HB 1 and HB 2 which impacts items unrelated to the state budget. Examples of these include:

- Consolidating functions in the department of administrative services;
- Repealing the memorandum between DHHS and DAS;
- Renaming divisions;
- Making changes to the apprenticeship programs;
- Adding definitions for aircraft;
- Enabling the sale of the Laconia lakes region facility; and
- Prohibiting the distribution of state funds for facilities offering abortion services;

2. I oppose any line in HB 1 and HB 2 which requires more discussion and a **vote** by the full House and/or Senate. Examples of these include:

- Establishing pharmacy investigator positions;
- Cutting DHHS positions;
- Amending the power of the governor during emergencies;
- Transferring funds to a recovery fund for FRM victims;
- Cutting the law enforcement mission from the state liquor commission;
- Establishing a commission to establish a statewide entity to receive complaints regarding law enforcement officers;
- Establishing a department of energy;
- Defining and regulating historic horse racing,
- Etc. Etc. Etc

The line items listed above should be heard by both chambers and voted upon individually by NH legislators. Citizens of New Hampshire need to know how their representatives will vote on each of these items. By tossing all these issues in one bucket, you bring dishonor on our system of government. You embarrass yourselves by recommending the passage of such legislation. I have heard that such a mishmash of items has never been included in a budget bill.

3. I oppose the reduction of state aid to the towns and cities for education and other expenses. I oppose cuts to the county systems. The back of the budget cut of more than \$50 million is totally unnecessary. Funds are going to the rainy day fund. If a worldwide pandemic doesn't count as a Rainy Day, what does?

While raising taxes on the typical taxpayer, the House Budget reduces the BET and BPT taxes on the bulk of corporations. The NHFPI reports that in 2018 only 3.9% of filers paid 73.9% of Business Enterprise tax. Why give these big companies a break? They already do business here, they are not leaving?

Who pays the Interest and Dividends Tax?? Those in higher tax brackets. During a typical year this tax brings in over \$200,000 in 6 months. Yet this House Bill proposes to repeal this tax totally in the next few years. Shameful.

4. I oppose SB 130 and the gift of public tax dollars to private schools including religious ones. SB 130 is poorly written and would never be accepted by the writers of the NH Constitution. My attachment explains the problems with this Bill.

Thank you for your time and effort as NH State Senators. Please try to make the right decision, not the best political decision.

Sincerely,

Marie Morgan  
Goffstown, NH

## CHAPTER 194-E

### EDUCATION FREEDOM ACCOUNTS

#### 194-E:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

XII. “**Scholarship organization**”, means a scholarship organization (SO) approved under RSA 77:G, that administers and implements the EFA Act.

**NOTE:** Under RSA 77:G, these SOs have many reporting requirements regarding their distribution of public tax credit funds, but those reporting requirements are absent from this new Chapter 194-E.

**NOTE:** It appears that a student with an EFA may also receive a scholarship under RSA 77:G:2 not to exceed \$2500 from these same SOs. This amount is adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index for the Northeast.

#### 194-E:2 Program.

I. The treasurer shall transfer to the scholarship organization the per pupil adequate education grant amount under RSA 198:40-a, plus any differentiated aid that would have been provided to a public school for that eligible student. The transfers shall be made in accordance with the distribution of adequate education grants under RSA 198:42.

**NOTE:** How does the Treasurer know how much to transfer for each child? Does the SO provide this info? The Dept of Education? The School District? Who verifies the child has left a public school or was even eligible to attend a district’s public school? When are the funds to be transferred? Was a Fiscal Note prepared regarding the labor costs for the Treasurer’s staff to do this?

II. Parents of an EFA student shall agree to use the funds deposited in their student’s EFA only for the following qualifying expenses to educate the EFA student:

- (a) Tuition and fees at a private school.
- (b) Tuition and fees for non-public online learning programs.
- (c) Tutoring services provided by an individual or a tutoring facility.
- (d) Services contracted for and provided by a district public school, chartered public school, public academy, or independent school, including, but not limited to, individual classes and curricular activities and programs.

**NOTE:** There is no indication that a private school must meet the approval requirements listed in ED 400, Approval of Nonpublic Schools, such as fire and health codes, nor does this new Chapter indicate that public tuition funds be withheld from any nonpublic school which fails to meet the requirements of an approved nonpublic school under Ed 400.

**NOTE: There is no restriction regarding the location (or accreditation status) of any private school which would allow NH tax dollars being spent in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, etc.**

(j) Tuition and fees for summer education programs and specialized education programs.

**NOTE: There isn't a clear definition of "education programs". Would swimming or golf or music/art programs be eligible? Should the State provide more funds to school districts so more public school students can also attend summer education programs?**

(m) Tuition and fees at an institution of higher education.

**NOTE: If public school students are not allowed funding for higher education tuition/fees, it doesn't seem appropriate for private school students to be provided public funds to do so.**

(o) Any other educational expense approved by the scholarship organization.

**NOTE: The NH legislature is so stringent in its requirements for how public schools spend and account for tax monies, yet here a SO is given unlimited leeway.**

VII. An EFA shall remain in force, and any unused funds shall roll over from quarter-to quarter and from year-to-year until the parent withdraws the EFA student from the EFA program or until the EFA student graduates from high school, unless the EFA is closed because of a substantial misuse of funds.

**NOTE: How does the SO know when a homeschooler "graduates" from high school? Under this Chapter, a homeschooler could continue to access funds from his/her EFA account while working. NOTE: Is there an age limit for a EFA account? Could a homeschooler EFA funds for higher education expenses until at least age 18 since RSA 193:1 requires all children to attend an approved public, private, or approved home school program between the ages of 6 and 18. Could a home schooled student use EFA funds at a prep school for an extra year before college?**

194-E:3 Application for an Education Freedom Account.

I. A parent may apply to **the scholarship organization** to establish an EFA for an eligible student. **The scholarship organization** shall accept and approve applications for the fall and spring semesters each year and shall establish procedures for approving applications in an expeditious manner.

**NOTE: If the Treasurer or SO has to verify a student is eligible and a school district has to report how much public state aid is provided to the district for that child, some deadlines for application will be needed. The deadlines should be the same for all scholarship organizations.**

**NOTE: Currently there are TWO Scholarship Organizations listed on the NH Department of Education website. It is very possible the number of Scholarship Organizations could increase.**

### **194-E:3 III AMENDED TO READ**

(d) The parent signs an agreement with **the scholarship organization:**

(1) To provide an education for the eligible student in the core knowledge domains that include science, mathematics, language, government, history, health, reading, writing, spelling, the history of the constitutions of New Hampshire and the United States, and an exposure to and appreciation of art and music.

(2) Not to enroll the eligible student as a **full-time student** in their resident district public school while participating in the EFA program.

**Note: Does this mean a student with an EFA is allowed to enroll in a public school part-time? For example, may a home schooled student enroll in a public Career and Technical program? What is the definition of a part-time student? Will the student be required to pay for enrolling in part time public programs?**

(d)(3)(A) Having the student take a national standardized, norm-referenced achievement test and to provide the results to the scholarship organization by the end of each school year which the scholarship organization shall make available to the department as **aggregate scores**; or

**NOTE: Aggregate scores (K – 12 mixed) would be useless, why bother?**

194-E:3 IV. The signed agreement between the parent and the scholarship organization shall satisfy the compulsory school attendance requirements of RSA 193:1.

**NOTE: RSA 193:1 defines Compulsory Attendance by a Pupil as attendance at an approved public or private school in or outside New Hampshire or a Home School Program as outlined in RSA 193-A. This new Chapter introduced in SB 130 completely ignores previous state laws passed to protect our nonpublic students from unsafe environments. It does not require private schools to be approved!!**

### **194-E:3 VI (a) AMENDED TO READ**

(a) The scholarship organization shall not adopt a system that relies exclusively on requiring parents to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses, but rather shall provide maximum flexibility to parents by facilitating direct payments to education service providers. Scholarship organizations may pre-approve requests for reimbursements for qualifying expenses, including expenses pursuant to RSA 194-E:2, II, but shall not disperse funds to parents without receipt that such pre-approved purchase has been made.

**NOTE: How long is a Scholarship Organization required to keep these records?**

194-E:4 Authority and Responsibilities of the Scholarship Organization. The scholarship organization shall have the following additional duties, obligations, and authority:

I. The scholarship organization shall maintain an updated list of education service providers and shall ensure that the list is publicly available through various sources, including the Internet.

**NOTE: Since education service providers could be small tutoring programs or schools located outside New Hampshire including online providers from the US or elsewhere, how could any SO keep such a current list? As I indicated earlier, currently there are 2 SOs. Should each of them track down these education service providers?**

**III. The scholarship organization shall ensure that parents of students with disabilities receive notice that participation in the EFA program is a parental placement under 20 U.S.C. section 25 1412, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), along with an explanation of the rights 26 that parentally placed students possess under IDEA and any applicable state laws.**

**NOTE: 20 U.S.C. Code 1412 is confusing unless you are an expert in Special Education.**

**One section I found says the local education agency needs to search for children in private schools who may need special education services. Of course, this requires public funding.**

**Another section says a local education agency need not pay a child's special education services at a private school if the child was already receiving an appropriate public education and the parents/guardians removed the child from the school. This harms the child.**

IV. The scholarship organization shall, in cooperation with the department, determine eligibility for differentiated aid subject to any applicable state and federal laws.

**NOTE: Currently there are 2 Service Organizations (SO) in the state. This number could increase. According to para IV, each SO will contact the Department of Education at various times of the year to ask about each student's eligibility for differentiated aid?? Would the Department then have to contact each child's previous school? Does the Fiscal Note include the work hours for Department and Public School staff to provide this information?**

X. The scholarship organization **may** conduct or contract for the auditing of individual EFAs, and shall at a minimum, conduct random audits of EFAs on an annual basis.

**NOTE: Although some random audits of EFAs are required, nowhere does it say a Service Organization must have an audit on its handling of public funds. This is unacceptable.**

(a) The scholarship organization shall create procedures to ensure that a fair process exists to determine whether an intentional and substantial misuse of EFA funds has occurred.

**NOTE: If a parent misuses an EFA and is dropped from a School Organization, what stops that parent from applying to another Service Organization?**

XIII. (a) If the scholarship organization bars an education service provider from receiving payments from EFAs, it shall notify parents and EFA students of its decision as quickly as possible.

**NOTE: Shouldn't a Service Organization also notify the Department of Education which could then notify other Service Organizations about this bad apple?**

XIV. The scholarship organization may accept gifts and grants from any source to cover administrative costs, to inform the public about the EFA program, or to fund additional EFAs.

**NOTE: This is another reason why these Service Organizations should be audited to review their procedures in handing over public funds and to determine if their actions are impacted by donors.**

194-E:5 Parent and Education Service Provider Advisory Commission.

I. There is established the parent and education service provider Advisory commission to assist the scholarship organization by providing recommendations about implementing, administering, and improving the EFA program.

II. The commission shall consist of 7 members who shall be parents of EFA students or education service providers and shall represent no fewer than 4 counties in the state. The members shall be appointed by the director of the scholarship organization and serve at the director's pleasure for one calendar year after which they may be reappointed.

**NOTE: If this were a private company and the owner wanted to appoint an advisory committee, this would be acceptable. But this is an organization responsible for handing out PUBLIC funds. The membership of a SO advisory committee should not be decided by the SO director.**

194-E:6 Requirements for Education Service Providers.

I. The scholarship organization **may** approve education service providers on its own initiative, at the request of parents, or by notice to the scholarship organization provided by prospective education service providers.

**NOTE: Since there is no requirement for the Service Organization Director to have any educational experience, on what basis will education service providers be accepted? Will those offering tutoring programs be required to submit results of a background check? Will private schools be required to have any accreditation?**

II. Education service providers shall be given maximum freedom to provide for the educational needs of EFA students without governmental control.

**NOTE: Does this mean the private schools need not have fire safety inspections? Does this mean the water need not be tested in private schools or that there be tests for lead or asbestos? And would teachers or volunteers sitting with these students be required to submit background checks? The safety and welfare of our children must be our number 1 priority.**

III. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers, or any school district to impose any additional regulation of education service providers beyond those necessary to enforce the requirements of the EFA program.

**NOTE: See my earlier comments. All education service providers must be required to adhere to the MINIMUM approval standards of Ed 400.**

V. An education service provider shall not be required to alter its creed, practices, admissions policy, or curriculum in order to accept payments from an EFA.

**NOTE: This means any program may teach any religion or biased curriculums subsidized with public funds.**

194-E:9 Legal Proceedings.

I. In any legal proceeding challenging the application of this chapter to an education service provider, the state bears the burden of establishing that the law is necessary and does not impose any undue burden on the education service provider.

**NOTE: What does this mean??? It doesn't seem to put the education and safety of children as a top priority.**



Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**NOTE: Section 194-E:4 XV states” The department shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of this chapter. There is no way any rules can be written and sent to the legislature for approval in 60 days.**



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

May 4, 2021

Gary Daniels, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee

Sent via email to the Committee

RE: Comments on the State Budget

Dear Chair Daniels,

New Hampshire's budget is a reflection of our state's values and priorities, carrying profound implications for almost every aspect of community well-being.

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation is New Hampshire's statewide community foundation. The millions in grant and scholarship dollars that the Foundation distributes each year complement and lever responsible public investments in advancing health, education, and economic security. The House version of the budget for 2021-2023 cuts critical funding just as New Hampshire is beginning to recover from the health, economic, and social crises of the past year. Charitable giving cannot begin to fill the gaps.

As you prepare to develop your version of the biennial budget, we respectfully share these perspectives for your consideration:

1. Prevent Loss of Federal Funds – Keep Taxpayer Dollars for Use in NH  
We are extremely concerned that the House version of the budget could result in the loss to New Hampshire of more than \$150 million in federal funds, since it contains provisions that reduce state tax revenues by an estimated nearly \$158 million, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds cannot be used to fill holes created by new state tax reductions. The ARPA brings several billion dollars in one-time funding for pandemic recovery – for individuals, schools, housing, health, and so much more. The Senate should take great care to ensure that revenue cuts to our already lean state budget do not put federal funds at risk, to the detriment of the people of New Hampshire.
2. Support Responsible Funding for Health, Human Services, and Education  
The Charitable Foundation believes that our shared prosperity depends on ensuring that all people have the opportunity to achieve their potential. Investments to ensure equitable access to health care, human services, and public education underpin community well-being and economic opportunity. We oppose deep House-proposed cuts to the Department of Health and Human Services (one analysis places the proposed decrease at close to \$207 million over the biennium relative to the Governor's budget). Such cuts would also likely result in further loss of federal funds, due to reductions in required state matches.

Likewise, we believe that inequities in education funding are already creating a crisis of disparate educational opportunities and outcomes across New Hampshire. We urge greater support for our schools that are most in need, and have concerns about proposed channeling of public funds to pay for private or home-school education.

3. Listen to Nonprofit Organizations

The Senate will benefit in shaping this budget from the insights of New Hampshire's nonprofits. They are on the ground and they know their communities best. For the past 14 months, hundreds of nonprofits have met overwhelming need head-on – feeding the hungry, sheltering people without homes, mentoring children, caring for the sick, supporting victims of violence, meeting the needs of frail homebound seniors, and more – all while managing a range of perils. We are proud to support and stand beside these “everyday superheroes.” As the state recovers from the devastating effects of Covid-19, please listen closely and carefully to the ideas and concerns of nonprofit leaders as you weigh important budgetary decisions.

4. HB 544 Does Not Belong in the Budget or the State

As we have previously said, the Charitable Foundation believes that HB 544, inserted into the House budget, is antithetical to the pursuit of free inquiry, to authentic exploration of history and current events, to freedom of speech, and to local control. Its passage would have a chilling effect on nonprofits, educators, private employers, state agencies and others engaged in the important work of educating about and counteracting racism, sexism and other inequities. This measure would detract from, not contribute to, our shared well-being and prosperity. It sends the wrong message to all Granite Staters and to the rest of the country. Further, we believe its insertion into the budget is an inappropriate maneuver to gain passage for a measure that would likely not have gained enough support to pass via the traditional legislative process, given the virtually universal condemnation from business, faith, civic, and nonprofit organizations.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am always available to answer your questions.

Respectfully,



Richard Ober  
President & CEO

cc: Sen. John Reagan, Vice Chair  
Sen. Bob Giuda  
Sen. Cindy Rosenwald  
Sen. Erin Hennessey  
Sen. Lou D'Allesandro  
Sen. Chuck Morse

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Doris Noyes <dorisnoyes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:12 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 544/HB 2

**PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST, BRENTWOOD-  
KINGSTON** **197 Middle Road,**  
**Brentwood, New Hampshire 03833**

May 5, 2021

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

We, members of the Pilgrim United Church of Christ (Brentwood-Kingston) Racial Justice Task Force, write to express our strong opposition to HB 544, now contained in HB 2, which deals with the "Propagation of Divisive Concepts." This includes Chapter 10-C and all language throughout the bill that speaks to "divisive concepts."

This bill is dangerous in the extreme, in that it attempts to deny the discussion, teaching of, and training about some aspects of our state's history that are difficult to contemplate but are impossible to deny, ignore, or minimize. Most of us have not learned about the continued impact of slavery, racism, and the true treatment of Indigenous peoples in our various public or private school or university settings but rather through the intentional process of seeking out accounts of both historic and current events.

The ability to teach all aspects of our history, *without editing or censoring*, should be accorded to all whose privilege it is to instruct young (and older) people in our educational systems. Only by confronting and analyzing the existence of slavery, racism, and systemic injustice in New Hampshire can we move beyond our past history and begin to create and maintain "liberty and justice for all." This bill in essence codifies racism, exemplifies white supremacy, and leans alarmingly toward Jim Crow-era denial of basic human rights.

Systemic racism does, sadly, exist in New Hampshire. Evidence can be found in our local towns and throughout the state. The president of the New Hampshire Medical Society, John Funk, MD, has gone on record saying that racism is a public health crisis (<https://www.nhms.org/News/Presidents-Blog>).

Although we use the terms "race" and "racism" to describe artificial divisions among humans, we are well aware that the concept of race is, itself, a human construct and is in no way biologically based.

Denial of the facts of injustice and discrimination will only condemn us to perpetuate the systems that have brought us to this point in time. We must learn from all of our history and not just a sanitized and incomplete version.

We take strong exception to the language and intent of this bill. We urge you to remove from HB 2 Chapter 10-C and all the offensive language associated with "divisive concepts" throughout the bill.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Brentwood-Kingston Racial Justice Task Force

Rev. Tara Olsen Allen, Pastor, Exeter,

NH

mian Allen, Exeter,

NH

Richard Chamberlain, Brentwood,

NH

ly Gilbert, Brentwood,

NH

Robert Gilbert, Brentwood,

NH

Jennifer Goodwin, Portsmouth,

NH

Doris Noyes, Kingston,

NH

Carol Renouf, Hampstead,

NH

Harriet Ward, Exeter, NH

letter HB44 Finance Committee

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## Debra Martone

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**From:** Crystal Paradis <cfparadis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:04 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** governorsununu@nh.gov  
**Subject:** ORAL TESTIMONY

My name is Crystal Paradis and I'm writing to ask this committee to amend HB1 to include 9-month backfill funding for family planning.

Several years ago, I began experiencing what was later diagnosed as menorrhagia — a condition affects over 10 Million women in the US alone. For me, it meant every month, I would experience days or even weeks of severe discomfort, heavy bleeding, migraines, anemia, nausea, inability to stand or even sit up. Often this meant a few days a month where I was totally unable to work or do any usual tasks. It was severely affecting my quality of life, and it was getting worse each month.

I was uninsured and had spent months attempting unsuccessfully scheduling an appointment with a doctor. I had turned to Planned Parenthood over a decade earlier, in my early twenties, for basic birth control, but it hadn't occurred to me to go to them until a friend who'd experienced similar symptoms recommended that I reach out to them for help.

I was able to very easily book an appointment online to see them **the very next morning**. That alone was a huge relief, but receiving care I needed was truly life-changing. The doctor told me I shouldn't have to live with the level of pain I was experiencing, and we discussed various options. I left **that day** with hormonal birth control pills, which cause near-immediate relief. A few weeks later, I went back for an IUD insertion.

That was 18 months ago, and I was, fortunately I'd say, someone for whom a hormonal IUD stopped my periods altogether — and the debilitating symptoms along with them. For those who don't know, an IUD lasts about 10 years. Since I was uninsured and low-income, **it was 100% covered by family planning funding.**

**This access to timely, compassionate care has changed my life.** I've been able to get through COVID-related employment shifts — not to mention stress around getting basic supplies, especially through the first few months of the pandemic — all without having to deal with a painful and costly condition that was getting worse the longer it went untreated.

You've heard about the potential gap in Title X funding for family planning services here in NH. We know that state revenues are actually up this year, so cutting this critical gap funding would be unnecessarily cruel as we recover from the biggest health crisis in generations.

My story is one of roughly 15,000 Granite Staters each year who need services from Planned Parenthood funded by Title X funding — please amend HB1 to include funding for this 9-month gap for family planning.

Crystal Paradis  
Somersworth, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Matt Schmitz <matt.e.schmitz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:47 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Please reject HB 1 & HB 2, from a NH voter

Dear Chair Daniels and Senate Finance Committee members,

As you have heard today during the moving testimony from so many Granite Staters, I urge you to oppose HB1 and HB2 for numerous reasons.

My main concerns are below:

- Remove school voucher language from the budget. (There is no reason for vouchers to be in the budget. We need to improve our public schools, not dismantle them.)
- Remove HB544 language (attempts to censor and limit teaching about racism, sexism and implicit bias) from budget. (How are Dartmouth, UNH, Plymouth State, Keene State, SNHU, etc. going to teach history?)
- Fully fund DHHS, fill the 266 vacant positions and restore back of budget funding. (The emergency room boarding crisis has been horrific this past year.)
- Close the \$90 Million gap in state education aid. (Places like Claremont, Berlin, and Franklin desperately need help.)
- Healthcare disparity. (Especially racial disparity and inequities in healthcare.)
- Do not create barriers to reproductive rights and women's health.
- Give tax relief to those who need it most, build a fair and sustainable revenue stream and maximize federal American Rescue Plan dollars. (Stop giving tax cuts to wealthy corporations.)

Please oppose HB1 and HB2 and listen to NH voters, not those from out of state.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Schmitz  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-224-4866



Senator Gary Daniels  
Senate Finance Committee

May 4, 2021

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable members of the Senate Finance Committee,

While the state budget bills contain numerous provisions in them, my testimony today focuses on 3 critical requests for this committee: first, that you refrain from including a school voucher plan like SB 130 which downshifts costs onto local taxpayers; second that you pass a public school funding formula that is more equitable and accounts for the pandemic effects on school budgets; and third that you remove entirely and without replacement the harmful language of HB 544, put into HB 2 by the House.

#### No School Vouchers in Our Budget

In March, the Senate majority indicated that it would take the contents of SB 130, the private, religious, and homeschool voucher program, and place it into the budget. Since this is the Finance Committee, I will focus my testimony on the financial and procedural reasons we feel this would be unwise. Three years ago, the NH House turned down a far more limited voucher plan in SB 193 for financial reasons, principally because in the ramp up period the Legislative Budget Assistant estimated that it would downshift \$99 million onto local property taxes. That program had an eligibility limited to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level and contained caps on the number of participants, provisions far less generous than the voucher plan adopted by the Senate this year, and yet SB 193 was still deemed to be too much of a financial risk to our communities.

As Rep. Neal Kurk asked in his floor speech against SB 193 from a few years ago, when talking about the downshifting this type of legislation would cause amid already challenging circumstances for school districts, “Do we really want to make things worse for local property taxpayers?” This a question that remains unanswered today. The plan you are considering now is far more expansive than the one rejected in 2018 which Rep. Kurk spoke against, and therefore could downshift an even greater amount onto local property taxpayers. To date there has been no financial analysis completed from the LBA on this bill, yet it is slated to be a part of our state budget.



We know the state will be paying more from the education trust fund if this voucher plan is included in the budget, but not to support our public schools. Instead, the state will be paying new money to parents who have already chosen to send their children to private, religious, or homeschools. Over a 3-year period we could be looking at nearly \$100 million public tax dollars being spent on vouchers for people who are already sending their children to private, religious, or homeschools.

And for those families who do choose to remove their student from a public school the state will be spending additional funds to temporarily lessen the blow of losing that badly needed funding. Why not spend these additional funds to support our public-school students whose districts need this money, rather than diverting it for such a voucher program? Rural and below average property valued communities will likely be hit the hardest by this initiative. The communities who struggle the most to raise money with limited state aid will suffer disproportionately.

A key component this committee should consider is that the financial oversight of the bill adopted by the Senate includes little oversight. Allowable usage includes “any other educational expense approved by the scholarship organization.” What specific responsibilities are placed on the scholarship organization? SB 130 also states: “The scholarship organization *may* conduct or contract for the auditing of individual EFAs and shall at a minimum conduct random audits of EFAs on an annual basis.” How many random audits? The legislation is silent on this, but under this language it appears random audits could be done to just a handful of accounts and meet the standards of this bill.

The Senate Education committee added a legislative oversight committee which is relatively meaningless. In other states with such programs, full-time state employees are conducting the oversight – a legislative committee does not have the resources or bandwidth to conduct proper management over a voucher program as expansive and freewheeling as this one in its allowable expenses. This committee would not be doing its due diligence to pass a budget with a program with as little oversight as contained in SB 130.

In addition, the scholarship organization can keep up to 10% of the state aid formerly sent to our school districts. On average 10% would be about \$460 per student of the average voucher payment of \$4,600 according to the Department, possibly up to \$850 depending on the circumstance of the child and their family. What does this say to the teachers in our state who spend, on average, \$423 out of their own pockets each year on classroom supplies or the students and educators we have heard from this past spring who drive to their library to access a wi-fi signal to take part in class or complete assignments? Not only are we subsidizing private schools using public dollars with this legislation, but we are also allowing a third-party to recoup extraordinary administrative costs in exchange for little to no oversight.

Finally, by putting school vouchers in the state budget, you will have completely cut off the opportunity for members of the House to deliberate and vote on this major piece of legislation, which will drastically alter education in the State of New Hampshire. House Bill 20 was retained in committee so that State Representatives could more fully weigh the pros and cons to the town or school district they represent. Do not put vouchers in the state budget and circumvent this

important public legislative process. Let the House continue to work on their bill and should they endorse it, send it over to you next year.

### Adequate School Funding

Rather than a voucher program in our state budget, we would urge the Senate to use those resources to close the \$90 million funding gap that students and taxpayers face because of the pandemic and the expiration of long overdue aid to our communities. The problem is bigger, no doubt than this biennium's budget, but this can be a bridge to undertake further changes to solve the inequities in our funding laid out by last year's School Funding Commission report. We supported the passage of SB 135 which closes part of the 2-year gap we face and urge this committee to commit the resources needed to finish the job. We disagree with the House's approach of reducing the SWEPT by \$100 million and have concerns this could jeopardize the significant investment the federal government is making to support our public schools as we exit this pandemic year.

### Remove HB 544

Lastly, the section of HB 2 that comes from the so-called divisive concepts bill, HB 544 is a particularly offensive piece to have to address during national teacher appreciation week. We appreciate our teachers for many things, including their ability to spark our young peoples' minds with critical thinking skills; this legislation would stifle that. The contents of HB 544 should not only cease to be a part of our state budget but should be removed from any further consideration by this body.

Furthermore, attempting to put into our laws this restrictive language is fraught with peril in so many respects and undermines the very principles of democracy that this bill purports to protect. Our country is at a crossroads with respect to racial and gender equity and inclusion. These discussions in the classroom and in the workplace are tools we use in this country to combat systemic race and gender inequality. One recently retired teacher who I know wrote to this committee implored in her letter, "Please do not limit voices of our students. Children by nature are curious learners and must ask questions! Educators are credentialed and skillful facilitators of this learning." Passing this kind of legislation, especially in our state budget, to silence these conversations will not only prevent the kind of inclusion we seek but set us farther back.

This budget can be a better representation of the priorities the people of New Hampshire hold rather than a document pieced together to ameliorate the extreme minority of one political party. We have an opportunity on this, National Teacher Appreciation Day, to show the most important people we serve as educators, our students, that we support a strong public education for all by funding our schools and striving to be a more inclusive and just community.

Respectfully submitted,



Megan Tuttle  
NEA-New Hampshire President



## **The Position of the New Hampshire AFL-CIO on inclusion of the provisions of SB 130-FN (“education freedom accounts”) in the New Hampshire Budget (2021)**

**TO:** Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee

**FROM:** Pres. Glenn Brackett, The New Hampshire AFL-CIO

**May 4th, 2021**

New Hampshire's labor unions have a unique insight into the nature of the state's workforce needs. The members of the affiliated unions of the New Hampshire AFL-CIO staff businesses in every sector and corner of the state, Our members work across the private, public, and nonprofit sectors serving in every capacity that our economy demands. We know what businesses look for in young workers and what factors workers thinking about a move to New Hampshire consider. Because of the window our members provide into how our economy operates, **we strongly urge the Senate Finance Committee to vote inexpedient to legislate on Senate Bill 130-FN - relative to education freedom accounts.**

Everyone knows that New Hampshire faces a workforce crisis due to the absence of skilled workers. Senate Bill 130, which would disproportionately offer already wealthy families a subsidy funded by low- and moderate-income homeowners, would do nothing to address this.

At the same time, it would pull money out of local public resources to fund education at a time when COVID-19 has already strained schools, leaving local taxpayers to make up the difference. For example, wealthy families could use locally-raised tax funds to send their children to pricey out-of-state private schools. This draining of property tax money makes the status of local public schools more precarious and less attractive to workers considering relocating to New Hampshire. Given the long-term challenges that we've seen in funding our local schools, it is hard to see how this legislation will help us build the durable 21st economy we all seek.

**Please feel free to contact the New Hampshire AFL-CIO at [communications@nhafcio.org](mailto:communications@nhafcio.org) with any questions.**

**###**



5/3/21

Senator Gary Daniels, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 2**

Dear Members of Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the New Hampshire Association of School Principals (NHASP) to appeal to you to:

- Vote in **IN SUPPORT of school funding**, and in adopting the funding provisions in Senate Bill 135. SB 135 would restore \$45 million in state funding for public schools, and we hope that lawmakers will consider restoring some of the targeted aid that was provided this year.
- **Vote in IN OPPOSITION of school vouchers in Senate Bill 130**, which would divert public school dollars to private and religious schools. This bill passed the Senate and is our understanding that it is expected to be added to the budget as an amendment.
- **Vote IN OPPOSITION of the "divisive concepts" amendment in House Bill 544**, which prevents school districts and other organizations that receive state funding from offering anti-bias training and teaching. HB 544 was added to the state budget by the House and we hope you vote against this piece of legislation.

Our public schools are the very bedrock of New Hampshire's communities. These are safe and vibrant environments, where students are afforded opportunities to thrive both independently and collectively in cultures that both recognize and celebrate diversity and individuality.

The very definition of *Equity* means promoting just and fair inclusion throughout society and creating the conditions in which everyone can participate, prosper, and reach his, her, or their full potential. Our public institutions already do this well and with integrity.

By diverting funding and resources away from our public schools, which already function under deep fiscal constraints due to our state's ongoing school funding crisis, we are knowingly crippling the very institutions our families directly depend upon and partner with and entrust, to provide for their children's overall well-being, as well as to ensure for their long-term success as future global citizens.

In closing, our students' overall well-being and future success rely on our commitment to continue to advocate for learning environments where every decision made, on their behalf, remains rooted in compassion and educational equity for all. For these reasons, we respectfully request that you please consider supporting NHASP's positions regarding this proposed legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bridey C. Bellemare". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bridey" being more prominent.

Bridey C. Bellemare  
Executive Director, NHASP

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Laura Aronson <laura@mlans.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 12:50 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Manchester voter opposed to HB1 and HB2

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for your patience during such a long day. I am a NH voter and urge you to oppose HB 1 and HB 2. I hope you listened to all the heart-felt testimony today on the many reasons why you should oppose the budget as it stands. Given the testimony you heard from so many Granite Staters, I strongly recommend you oppose HB1 and HB2.

I urge you to please:

- Remove HB544 language (attempts to censor and limit teaching about racism, sexism and implicit bias) from budget. (How are Dartmouth, UNH, Plymouth State, Keene State, SNHU, etc. going to teach history?)
- Remove school voucher language from the budget. (There is no reason for vouchers to be in the budget. We need to improve our public schools, not dismantle them.)- Fully fund DHHS, fill the 266 vacant positions and restore back of budget funding. (The emergency room boarding crisis has been horrific this past year.)- Close the \$90 Million gap in state education aid. (Places like Claremont, Berlin, and Franklin desperately need help.)
- Healthcare disparity. (Especially racial disparity and inequities in healthcare.)- Give tax relief to those who need it most, build a fair and sustainable revenue stream and maximize federal American Rescue Plan dollars. (Stop giving tax cuts to wealthy corporations.)
- Do not create barriers to reproductive rights and women's healthcare.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. Please oppose HB1 and HB2 and listen to NH voters. We deserve a budget that works for the people of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Laura Aronson  
603-490-7126

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Carol Busby <carolannbusby@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 7:40 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Planned Parenthood Funding

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to urge you to protect funding for Planned Parenthood.

PP is not just abortion. In fact, that is a very small part of what they do. I found them as a college student in need of birth control back in 1969. Birth control is the majority of what they do and birth control is the very best way to stop abortion.

PP also takes care of women's health, a critical need in places with few doctors and for women who can't afford to see a private doctor. So protecting PP funding protects women. And women make up half of your constituencies.

I urge and implore you not to cut funding for Planned Parenthood, an organization that is good for the people of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,  
Carol Busby  
Sandown, NH



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Emma Ryan <21eryan@derryfield.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 10:05 AM  
**To:** Erin Hennessey; Cindy Rosenwald; Bob Giuda; Chuck Morse; Lou D'Allesandro; John Reagan; Gary Daniels; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** I'm a NH Constituent, Please Oppose HB1 and HB2

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I'm a 17 year-old resident of New Hampshire and I am urging you to please oppose HB 1 and HB 2. I hope you listened to all the heart-felt testimony yesterday on the many reasons why you should oppose the budget as it stands.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. We need a budget that works for the people of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Emma Ryan  
Bedford, NH 03110

## Debra Martone

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**From:** sam osherson.com <sam@osherson.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 11:02 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey  
**Subject:** Oppose SB 130 in budget

Honorable Members, Senate Finance Committee:

I urge you to keep SB 130, the school voucher bill, out of the state budget. I believe the voucher idea is bad policy in general, weakening our public schools at a time when they need our support, and that SB 130 specifically is missing financial oversight and controls. It's a bad use of taxpayers' money.

I'd like to point out one particularly egregious aspect of SB 130: its negative impact on students from low income families.

Although the bill as currently amended will be limited to lower/middle income families, it will not help those at the bottom of the income scale, because they won't be able to afford the difference between the (ave.) \$5,100 voucher and the cost of tuition.

Moreover, because SB130 is limited to students whose family income falls below 300% of poverty, districts serving higher populations of low income students would be impacted the most if this program is adopted. These are communities that have the least ability to raise taxes to counteract lost state funding.

If these communities are forced to resort to budget cuts to compensate for the loss of funding due to SB130, then the students who remain in these districts - who tend to be disproportionately low income compared with the rest of the state - will see their opportunities diminishing. So implementing SB130 into the budget will just serve to make worse the inequities that already make zip code a determinant of educational opportunity, and would widen the divide between haves and have-nots.

SB130 is touted as a bill that would help every child get what she needs in school. But as you know, many children don't get what they need, simply because they attend school in districts that don't have the means to ensure that their students have access to the kinds of opportunities students in wealthier districts have. This year, school districts around the state are facing the loss of \$90 million, of which \$62.5 million represents the loss of aid that was mostly targeted to property-poor towns and towns with higher concentrations of poverty.

If you want to help thousands of students in struggling school districts get what they need in school, please restore this lost aid, before you even consider using \$67 million in state funds to help a much smaller number of students with EFAs.

Sincerely,

Sam Osherson

Nelson, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Gary Daniels  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 11:52 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Fw: please reject Divisive concepts bill / amendment in HB 2 (or HB 544?)

For OneDrive

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**From:** Chuck McAuley <nobletrout@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 9:43 AM  
**To:** Laurie Sanborn <repsanborn@gmail.com>; Tony Labranche <Tony.Labranche@leg.state.nh.us>; Megan Murray <Megan.Murray@leg.state.nh.us>; Daniel Veilleux <Daniel.Veilleux@leg.state.nh.us>; Gary Daniels <Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us>  
**Subject:** please reject Divisive concepts bill / amendment in HB 2 (or HB 544?)

All

Please reject the proposed "Divisive Concepts" amendment/bill that is currently proposed in the state house and senate legislatures. I don't think the state should have much, if any say, in what our local schools funded with local dollars, should be teaching, or limiting their scope of education. This bill strikes me as a very dangerous attempt to curtail educators and limit the scope of education and exposure my kids will receive in school. My daughter is currently learning about the horrors of world war II and the holocaust. I would be horrified if the educators decided that because of this bill or ones like it they would have to remove this critical piece of education from their curriculum. This is one such example I can see happening from such a poorly thought out piece of legislation.

<https://www.concordmonitor.com/Divisive-Concepts-Bill-Could-be-DOA-in-New-Hampshire-39375573>

Thank you for your time  
Chuck McAuley  
Amherst, NH



May 4, 2021

Senator Gary Daniels, Chair  
NH Senate Finance Committee  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Senator Daniels,

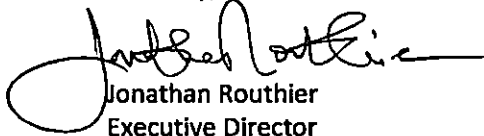
On behalf of the ten Area Agencies who are contracted with the state to provide supports and services to individuals with developmental disabilities and acquired brain disorders throughout the state, I write today to request that the Senate remove the HB544 language from House Bill 2 related to "divisive concepts."

The Area Agencies and over 50 private providers of services who are subcontracted to support individuals operate on a fundamental principle of community inclusion and equity for all those we support. Our services reach across racial, gender, ethnic, sexuality, and intellectual level boundaries, and employees who work in this system are provided with specific training to support a broad understanding of the importance of diversity and advocacy. Efforts to restrict training and orientation related to diversity, equity and inclusion fly in the face of the values that underlie the service delivery system.

In addition to the conflict that exists between the language in HB2 on divisive concepts and the importance of embracing dialogue about how to move towards a more inclusive community, this language would have the unintended consequence of impairing the ability of area agencies to apply for and receive other sources of support to fund their operations, including federal grants.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that the New Hampshire Senate remove this provision from the state budget. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Routhier  
Executive Director



For a thriving New England

CLF New Hampshire 27 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
P: 603.225.3060  
F: 603.225.3059  
www.clf.org

May 4, 2021

Via Electronic Mail

The Hon. Gary Daniels, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
N.H. State House  
Concord, NH 03301

**Re: HB 2 Chapter 10-C, Propagation of Divisive Concepts Prohibited (formerly HB 544)**

Conservation Law Foundation ("CLF") writes to express our opposition to HB 2 Chapter 10-C (formerly HB 544), prohibiting the "Propagation of Divisive Concepts." We urge you to oppose this budget provision.

HB 2 Chapter 10-C would prohibit all aspects of government in New Hampshire, including New Hampshire schools, as well as state contractors, from teaching and discussing critically important matters of equity including the impacts and need to address systemic racism and sexism, and the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion to make New Hampshire a welcoming place for all, with opportunity for all. The bill's description of these important issues as "divisive concepts" is deeply unfortunate, and its prohibition is wrong and dangerous for New Hampshire. Simply put, New Hampshire cannot address disparities by pretending they do not exist. HB 2 Chapter 10-C further erases those who already feel invisible, further disempowers those who are already vulnerable, perpetuates false realities, and sets a precedent that truth, accountability, and empathy are not values of our state.

CLF is a non-profit advocacy organization working to protect New England's environment and promote healthy communities for the benefit of all people. People of color and historically marginalized communities are more likely to bear a disproportionate burden of environmental and public health harms, such as air pollution, water pollution, and childhood lead poisoning, and they are less likely to share equitably in environmental benefits like green spaces. These environmental and health disparities are the result of a legacy of social and economic disparity in our country. To address them, it is critical to acknowledge and work to overcome systemic racism and sexism, including in New Hampshire. HB 2 Chapter 10-C would prohibit necessary work that must be done to allow New Hampshire to grow to be a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive place for all people to live.

We strongly urge you to oppose Chapter 10-C of HB 2 and to remove it from the budget. We are asking you to use your vote on behalf of communities that are too often overlooked and unheard and, in fact, on behalf of all of us who live and work in the Granite State.

Respectfully,

Tom Irwin  
V.P. and CLF New Hampshire Director

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Laura Telerski  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 12:20 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; Lou D'Allesandro; Cindy Rosenwald; John Reagan; Bob Giuda; Erin Hennessey; Chuck Morse  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Budget Hearing - need for public school support

Members of Senate Finance,

Thank you for putting in such a long day yesterday during the public hearing for HB1 and HB2. My intention was to testify, but I couldn't match the impact of the testimony from the public and preferred you hear from them. Their personal stories of being caregivers, educators, and business owners, and challenges faced during the pandemic were powerful.

Although there are a number of policies in the budget I oppose, such as the banning of teaching divisive concepts and the restrictions on family planning funding, I believe you heard from many others on these issues. I would like to briefly address the need for robust school funding.

The pandemic has hit our educational system in a way we have never experienced. Needs for students have increased to make up for lost instruction and we should be offering more resources to assist, not less. The drop in free and reduced lunch applications in addition to temporary drops in student enrollment will hit our towns hard if we stick with the current funding formula. This is the time we should be providing our public schools with the support they need to get through this challenging time.

Additionally, I would strongly discourage the committee from advancing any school voucher program. With so many unanswered questions around the cost and who would participate, this is not the time to launch a program that could have devastating effects on local budgets if students can take their allocated funds with them to private schools. I ask that you consider the local homeowner and the demands that are being put on them through their property taxes. I hear from constituents in Nashua they can't handle much more.

I thank you again for your time and for accepting my remarks on the budget.

Laura Damphousse Telerski  
New Hampshire State Representative  
Hillsborough 35 - Nashua Ward 8  
Laura.Telerski@leg.state.nh.us  
(603) 320-3957

**Debra Martone**

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**From:** Gary Daniels  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 12:31 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Fw: HB Bill 1

For OneDrive

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**From:** snbhollis@comcast.net <snbhollis@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 4:16 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels <Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us>  
**Subject:** HB Bill 1

May 4, 2021

Dear Chairman Daniels of the Senate Finance Committee and members of the Committee,

My name is Susan Hollis, and I live in Merrimack, NH. While I unfortunately cannot attend your budget hearings due to lack of child care, I am writing to request that you **please support the developmental disability services budget and the people that carry out this critical work**. My son and daughter are supported by Gateways Community Services through Family Support, Consumer Directed Services and Partner's in Health.

My son John Hollis, 21 years old and my daughter Reva Hollis, who passed last year at 25 years old have received services through Gateway Community Services since they were each 2 ½ weeks old, my family and I are so grateful the expertise and variety of services that are available to help ensure that they continue to thrive in a way that they can be as independent as possible and have a high quality of life. The services we receive are so critical. We would have a hard time being able to meet their needs without them. We need continued strength in the system particularly as we face a workforce crisis with families like ours struggling to hire and retain direct support professionals.

I urge you to support developmental services and address the workforce challenges we are faced with through your budget. Please include HB Bill 1 in your budget to provide a much-needed services. We are one of 15,000 families who rely on these services. Our family personally participates in In-home supports waiver and Transition to adult services. We also cope with staffing challenges. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to urge you to fully fund developmental services and support our workforce.



Sincerely



Gordon & Susan Hollis  
19 Profile Drive  
Merrimack NH 03054  
603-429-1323



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Gary Daniels  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 12:32 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Fw: Please Fully Fund Developmental Services in HB1 Budget, Fund Medicaid dental benefits, and Oppose SB 130 deceitfully rolled into the budget without proper legislative processes such as hearings.

For OneDrive

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**From:** Jill Prakop <jillprakop@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 4:15 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels <Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us>  
**Subject:** Please Fully Fund Developmental Services in HB1 Budget, Fund Medicaid dental benefits, and Oppose SB 130 deceitfully rolled into the budget without proper legislative processes such as hearings.

May 3, 2021

Bill Number HB1

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Good afternoon, my name is Jill Prakop, our family lives in Derry. My husband and I are asking you to fully fund the developmental services budget in HB1 and the folks who carry out the work. Both of our daughters are supported by Community Crossroads through Family Support Services and In Home Supports Waivers. Additionally, please provide funding for an adult Medicaid dental benefit.

While we support full funding for developmental services and Medicaid dental benefits, we strongly oppose the provisions rolled into the budget concerning SB 130. It is completely irresponsible and underhanded that SB 130 has not been brought up at legislative hearings. Where is the transparency, accountability, and legislative process with regards to SB 130?

The support of our area agency in addition to the In Home Supports Waivers has been critical to our family during this unprecedented pandemic. Because of complex medical challenges and global developmental disabilities, the girls require consistent supervision and adult assistance to navigate their environments successfully. Additionally, both girls need assistance with all aspects of daily living skills.

Due to the pandemic our public middle school (WRB) in Derry worked with our family to develop a plan ensuring the girls received some remote school services with majority of services delivered during and after school. Despite all of these challenges the girls are involved in their community because of the supports and services we receive through our Area Agency.

We are one of 15,000 NH families that rely on critical home and community supports, services, and respite that is provided by our Area Agencies. Without these supports many children would not develop the necessary skills they need for adulthood.

When considering the future of NH families these services are not only the fiscally smart thing to do but will save NH money as our children grow into career ready tax paying adults. Please fully fund the developmental services budget in

HB1, Medicaid dental benefit and completely eliminate the provisions rolled into the budget concerning SB130.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and most importantly your support.

Sincerely,  
Jill and Adam Prakop  
Derry NH

May 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Committee,

Good afternoon, my name is Audrey Gerkin and I live in Brentwood, NH. I am asking for the support of the developmental services budget in HB 1. My daughter, Lexi, is one of the 15,000 families supported by the area agencies. She receives assistance through One Sky's Family Support program as she moves towards transitioning to adult services. I also work as the Legislative Liaison for One Sky.

Lexi is almost 20 years old and attends the Monarch School of New England in Rochester. She has worked at the Dover Children's museum. She loves to swim at the nearby YMCA and asks for a pet snake every year at Christmas. Santa has not come through yet for this wish. For Lexi to continue seamlessly to be a part of the community as she turns 21, it is so important for the budget to be fully funded and the waitlist continue to be nonexistent.

I also urge you to fully fund the adult dental Medicaid program. Lexi will benefit from this service too, as she turns 21. She has many medical complications, and a trip to the dentist for even only a cleaning, typically means anesthesia will be involved. By the funding the dental Medicaid program, it ensures this basic care will be covered.

Thank you for your support on these issues.

Sincerely,  
Audrey Gerkin  
141 Pickpocket Road  
Brentwood NH  
[Gerkin5@comcast.net](mailto:Gerkin5@comcast.net)  
[a.gerkin@oneskyservices.org](mailto:a.gerkin@oneskyservices.org)  
603-793-9378



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Gary Daniels  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 12:49 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Fw: Opposition of Budget Cuts to Mental Health Funding in NH

For OneDrive

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**From:** klf.choate@outlook.com <klf.choate@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:15 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels <Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us>  
**Subject:** Opposition of Budget Cuts to Mental Health Funding in NH

Good Morning,

I am writing to let you know of my opposition to the current budget due to cuts in mental health funding. Mental health is an integral part of the well-being of NH residents and families, and currently there is a severe lack of resources available to individuals and families. This mental health crisis has only been exacerbated by the pandemic, and we have seen an increase in the number of residents struggling emotionally and mentally during these extreme times.

I have experienced firsthand how these lack of resources impact our residents and communities. As the parent of a child who has been diagnosed with mental and emotional challenges, it has been a struggle for years to find providers in our state for therapy, evaluations, and parental support. As an adult it can be very difficult to find a therapist especially one within a particular insurance network, however it is even more difficult to find providers who work with minors. We have spent months on waiting lists and called countless offices and centers only to be told over and over again that they do not work with children or aren't accepting new patients due to being booked out for over a year. Meanwhile we watch our child struggle with his challenges, and our family struggles too.

These lack of services lead to more crises for our children and adults who are struggling with their mental health, and the families who are trying desperately to help them. We need more providers, more centers, and more community supports to prevent crises and to help those with diagnoses navigate their challenges and get the supports and tools needed to have happy, healthy, and full lives as individuals, as a part of our community, and our workforce. To not support the health of NH residents through funding these necessary services, is an egregious oversight or lack of understanding of the importance of mental health to our residents. Individuals and families should not be left to struggle alone.

Thank you.  
Kerri Choate  
Rollinsford, NH  
603.923.9129

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

I am asking that the Senate Finance Committee fully fund mental health as was indicted in the Governor's Budget.

1. Medicaid reimbursement needs to increase so we can retain staff. When I get my itemized bill for my medical oncologist in Boston versus my therapist, it is discouraging for me to see the huge gap in the amount of money that they bill for and the amount of money that they are actually reimbursed for. How are my therapist and social workers supposed to pay their student loans? How are they supposed to pay rent, a car payment, and food never mind utilities and car insurance? I have lost so many therapists because they have gone to private practice because that is where the money is.
2. The 10 mental health plan: The mobile crisis units need to be fully funded and implemented, especially in the North Country. There are many people that need mental health services and like Arthur Gardiner stated earlier today, Dartmouth Hitchcock has turned away one adult three times last year. Thank goodness he had a supportive girlfriend. Can you imagine being depressed enough to say, I need help, but yet, the only area agency turned you away, not ONCE but 3 times. This was going to be added in the HB 400 when the current Governor signed this bill into law. Somehow, this addition keeps getting overlooked but they need this addition up in the North Country. We also need more children's services. Wrap around services for children. Families need education around mental health, who to support their loved one, and get the children to receive the needed services
3. I understand staffing is part of the problem. In NH, we have a great location: we are an hour away from the Seacoast, Boston, and the Mountains. But, we limit ourselves to people who studied and got their degrees from NH. What is wrong with reciprocities? We could adjust our acceptance and not make it so difficult for people who studied in other states. Start small like people who studied in New England or New York. And, we could offer a self-care program to entice people to work in NH for the mental health. But the Medicaid Reimbursement increasing would likely draw people to our wonderful state.
4. Let's work on improving and increasing available mobile crisis units and peer supports throughout the state. There is no doubt working for the mental health population is difficult. And again, staffing is an issue. Offer medicaid reimbursement rates higher. We will not hold onto staff if they cannot pay their bills. Aren't the people of NH worth the investment? I am a consumer of mental health services.
5. Why can't we get creative and set up an "emergency" gym for adults who need treatment? We did it for COVID at NHTI. I know there are challenges with staffing, but again, waiting in the ER is not where these people should be alone with their thoughts. Getting into treatment quickly is how I am alive today. My parents fought for me until I could FINALLY advocate for myself and others like me who have a mental illness. Even, increasing funding for Community Support Programs (there are 7 in NH) might be able to hire more therapists, psychiatrists, and social workers.

PLEASE FULLY FUND the Governor's mental health in the budget. Again, the decrease in funds will affect me and my mental health treatment.

Any questions: please feel free to reach out to me!

Karen M. Trudel

[tktrudel1@gmail.com](mailto:tktrudel1@gmail.com)

603-494-2726

There is a crisis in NH that for too long and for too many reasons appears to not have voice. This crisis can no longer, and should no longer be kept silent. We have heard many cries in this country in the recent year, “black lives matter”, “back the blue”, “stop the haters”, “mask-up”, even “be kind”. All worthy sentiments calling to our attention, our ability to call for action and make change happen for our communities. For much longer than the last year, NH has seen a rise in demand for mental health services including inpatient beds, intensive outpatient services, supportive housing and other treatments to assist people struggling with psychiatric illnesses.

In 1989, the Granite State was recognized as having a mental health care system that was a model not just for the rest of New England, but the country. In the 1980s, New Hampshire was among the first states to deinstitutionalize people with developmental disabilities or mental illnesses in favor of community-based treatment. While New Hampshire experienced early successes getting patients out of hospitals and closer to their homes, current times reflect a seriously challenged system of care. Reimbursement rates, have been among the lowest of all states and well below the national average, with one notable adjustment occurring in the past two years. The fact of the matter is we must continue and understand the steps forward were taken with more steps backward. The loss of hospital beds, the closure of 24 hour care homes coupled with workforce shortages have left scars that further complicate a response to the influx of patients.

Make no mistake, there is a mental health crisis in NH. Today as I write this editorial, there are 45 adults and 24 children in emergency rooms across this state waiting for an inpatient bed. There are hundreds more in NH that are on wait lists for outpatient treatment and the community mental health centers who are treating the most vulnerable patients have upwards of 225 staff vacancies. And the pandemic has only increased the demand for mental health services for people of all ages. Nearly half the people in the United States say the coronavirus pandemic is adversely affecting their mental health, according to a [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) poll.

Where are the cries, what is the mantra we embrace? The sound of silence is deafening. Are we not the least bit outraged that there are not enough beds to treat people who have serious illnesses that are as important to them and their families as is the cardiac patient, the woman in labor or a stroke patient?

We are making progress but our approach has and continues to be “bandaging the bleed”; versus a strategic long-term solution that targets the existing gaps and those likely to appear in our future.

There are days I feel like the child who put their thumb in the dike and it is just not good enough to stem the flow. It is heartbreaking to have to tell a family member or a patient we are doing the best we can with what we have, knowing full well it is falling short of what they need and what I would want for care of my loved ones.

I am asking that we take time to understand the crisis, to talk about the crisis and to plan NH’s future approach to mental health strategically and comprehensively. We can each do something to influence the change.

- Encourage your children to consider a career in mental health.
- Talk to your elected officials to adopt proactive legislation that supports the system of mental health care.
- Teachers can reinforce curriculums to make sure children are understanding and appreciating the importance of mental health.
- Universities can promote and ensure degree and certificate programs target our work force shortages

And finally, let compassion and medicine dictate our mantra to fix this system! New Hampshire's ten community mental health centers serve more than 50,000 seriously mentally ill adults and children each year. Make no mistake the heart and soul of our citizenry is suffering from our silence. We can be silent no more.

Maggie Pritchard is the treasurer of NH's community behavioral health association and the CEO of Lakes Region Community Mental Health Center.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

- Lakes Region Mental Health Center (LRMHC) is one of ten Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) in NH and we provide services to more than 4,000 children, adults, older adults in Belknap and lower Grafton County (24 towns) between our two campuses in Laconia and Plymouth. We are designated by the state to serve populations with acute and/or chronic mental illness and our goal is to keep people in their communities as opposed to placement or hospitalization.

As you can imagine this takes a skilled work force.

It's essential for patients to have doctors or other practitioners to identify and recommend the course of treatment for their psychiatric illnesses. Without workers to provide these critical services, families can be torn apart as they watch loved ones deteriorate, or as they give up their own jobs to provide care themselves, without the training or appropriate supports to do so. In many cases, when people don't get timely and appropriate care for a mental illness, they are also cheated out of services that would help afford them the basics of life, like housing, education and employment.

**The major concerns of our front-line providers are, of course, the impacts of the workforce crisis on the more than 50,000 seriously mentally ill adults and children we provide services to annually in NH.**

The problems health care providers have in recruiting and retaining nurses, home health care providers, primary care physicians, psychiatrists, substance abuse counselors and other professionals are significant. These problems are not unique to New Hampshire, but they have been exacerbated by our state's low unemployment rate, limited housing availability for staff, competition among providers, licensing and reciprocity requirements that may be onerous or outdated, and the challenges all employers face in trying to keep young people here to build their careers.

Vacancies and turnover of staff can mean increased wait times for consumers, reduced continuity and quality of care, less individualized care, and less timely access to services. And an overriding concern for the community mental health centers is their ability to comply with the Community Mental Health Act, the agreement that resulted from the 2013 Department of Justice suit that requires the state to provide more community-based mental health care. CMHCs were not parties to the DOJ suit but, as the providers of community-based services, they are responsible for implementing many of its mandates, all of which require adequate staffing.

Unfortunately, this profession or area of expertise is not one that is well paid yet it requires advanced education and training

In many cases, our centers have become training facilities, where practitioners get their first jobs and some experience, then move on to hospitals or other providers who can afford to pay higher salaries.

For all the reasons stated, LRMHC currently has 28 openings out of a staff of about 200.

This means we have waiting lists; these include but are not limited to:

- a waiting list for an intake for our less acutely ill patients
- a waiting list for therapy for our acutely ill adults
- a waiting list for community-based services for all of our patients
- a waiting list for vocational services
- a waiting list for housing

The state also has psychiatric patients waiting in emergency rooms for a hospital bed, at the time of this writing, there are currently 35 adults and 5 children waiting in emergency departments.

When we have the staff we need, the better we do our job, and the less cost to you and to our communities. Community care less costly than hospital or institutions. Employed individuals contribute and need less or no assistance to survive and thrive.

One tool we have had that has been instrumental in both recruitment and retention has been the student loan repayment program.

It is hard to recruit for community workers, therapists, crisis workers and medical personnel as these positions ask so much of staff, and it is especially hard in rural areas. The loan repayment program helps new recruits by helping them afford to work in the profession they have trained so hard for. And it helps us retain these staff for a period of time which is so important to patients who often experience a changing cast of providers.

For this organization, we've had four masters level clinicians and 2 psychiatric practitioners take advantage of this program and these are critical positions we need to retain, we hope the student loan repayment program is expanded to include bachelors level staff as well.

### House Bill 602

We have long advocated for increasing access to telehealth because of its potential to expand access to health care, reduce costs, and improve health outcomes. Telehealth has proven to be pivotal for many patients during the current pandemic, ensuring they receive the care they need while reducing the risk of infection and the further spread of COVID-19. This is particularly important to those we serve in rural areas of NH where many don't have the ability to travel in order to receive services.

We have had to be creative with regards to staffing and in providing services to patients in a pandemic, and we've made some discoveries.

Telephone and telehealth services have been instrumental in reaching patients and recruiting and retaining staff.

- This has also allowed us to recruit staff that we normally would not be able to bring on board.
- We are rural, w/ low population density, and amenities few and far between. We often lose candidates to the commute and isolation.

Most importantly though, in the middle of a mental health crisis that is increasing due to the ravages of the pandemic, telehealth services have become critically important to our patients.

- We have learned that patient compliance with treatment improves when we can reach out in different modalities.
- The patient that would miss appointments due to no transportation or fear of coming into the clinic, has welcomed being able to meet with their therapist by phone or telehealth.
- And if they forget, we are right there and can call them. This has also helped to reduce missed appointments.
- Patients needing our services have benefited significantly from this expansion of telehealth and have come to rely on its availability. Congress should expand access to telehealth services on a permanent basis so that telehealth remains an option for all Medicare beneficiaries both now and after the pandemic. Doing so would assure patients that their care will not be interrupted when the pandemic ends. It would also provide certainty to health care providers that the costs to prepare for and use telehealth would be a sound long-term investment.

Our patients are some of the most vulnerable members of our society, and the people that serve them are some of the most dedicated and compassionate.

In closing, our measure of ourselves as a community rests with how we take care of both the patient, and the care taker. I urge you to keep this in mind as you consider the loan repayment program and telephone and telehealth services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Celia Gibbs, LCMHC and Chief Clinical Officer at Lakes Region Mental Health Center

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Barbara D. Reed <bdreed74@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 2:51 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Proposed 2022-2023 Budget

I am a member of the Coalition for a People's Budget and ask that you consider the needs of the residents of NH. Please consider my testimony as part of the unified coalition and consider our demands as one. I present this testimony specifically in regards to the needs of NH residents on fixed incomes. Those individuals need support in the form of funding for aging in place measures and also relief from excessive property taxes that will result from efforts to force the implementation of school vouchers. These property tax increases will make it even more difficult for them to feed themselves, pay for essential medical care and medications, and to keep a roof over their heads and will make those individuals even poorer than they already are. As a retired RN with 35 years of Cheshire County geriatric nursing experience, I also believe that full funding for public health efforts is essential to our recovery from the financial impact of COVID 19. Giving tax cuts to the wealthy and corporations will diminish the funds available to help the people of NH to survive and thrive in our beloved state. Barbara D. Reed 45 Joslin Rd, North Swanzey NH.

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Ann Walls <awalls16@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:07 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** We need a budget that works for ALL NH citizens

To the Senate Finance Committee,  
Thank you for your work and patience.

**As NH voters we urge you to oppose HB 1 and HB 2.** You heard from many folks on the multiple reasons you should oppose the budget, as it stands.

*In particular, PLEASE:*

1. Remove school voucher language from budget. Citizens are telling you we need to IMPROVE public schools, not undercut them with defunding tricks.
2. FULLY fund DHHS, fill the vacant positions and restore the back of budget funds. You must know the emergency room crisis this past year has been horrible...this is not the time to turn our backs on this crisis.
3. Close the gap of \$90 million for state education. Communities such as Berlin and Claremont are in dire straights.
4. Reduce healthcare and income disparities by giving tax relief to those in dire need, and maximize the federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan. STOP giving tax cuts to wealthy corporations!!!
5. Stop throwing up barriers to woman trying to access healthcare and reproductive health services.

NH citizens deserve a budget that works for all of us.  
Again....PLEASE oppose HB1 and HB2.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this crucial matter.

Ann and Jerry Walls  
Concord NH



**Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center**

One Medical Center Drive  
Lebanon, NH 03756-0001  
Phone (603) 650-5000  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock.org

Senate Finance

May 4, 2021

Re: HB 1-A and HB 2 FN-A-L, relative to the state budget for state FY 2022 and '23

Dear Chair Daniels and members of the Senate Finance committee,

Thank you for the work that you have done to date and for the work that you are about to carry out over the coming weeks. Building the state's budget is never a small task. However, building a state's budget to address the needs of our state, including ensuring our most vulnerable have necessary resources, is critical – both during a public health pandemic and beyond.

#### Behavioral Health

The pandemic has highlighted gaps in our systems that are designed to provide for people in their time of need. One system of care that is experiencing exacerbated symptoms of neglect is our behavioral health system. Over the last year we have seen an increased queue for crisis services for both adults and children in our emergency rooms. We have also seen families struggling to obtain necessary outpatient mental health and substance use services. We need to rebuild a robust continuum of behavioral health care, supported by ancillary community services, that will help avoid institutional care by providing prevention and early intervention, integrate behavioral health with physical health, and ensure adequate crisis care is available and accessible when necessary - as well as transitions for patients after institutional care so as to avoid further hospitalization.

***Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health (D-HH) encourages Senate Finance to support a comprehensive approach to build out mental health and substance use services for both adults and children consistent with the 10 year mental health plan, comprehensive system of care, and the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategic Plan. Please see attached statement from John Broderick sharing his experience advocating for mental health awareness on behalf of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health.***

#### Medicaid

Both the Governor and the House budgets recognized the 3.1% Medicaid provider rate increase authorized in the prior budget as well as the Medicaid Enhancement Tax and the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital agreement reached by the State of New Hampshire and providers several years ago.

***Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health asks Senate Finance to maintain those provisions in HB 1.***

#### Population Health

The pandemic also revealed opportunities to enhance our public health system. SB104 originally contemplated \$600,000 in both FY 2022 and FY'23 to embed one community health worker in each public health network. This provision was removed from SB 104 before passage.

***Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health asks Senate Finance to appropriate \$600,000 in both FY 2022 and FY'23 to support community health workers' efforts to assist vulnerable citizens across our state – or assure that federal funds available for such work is so allocated.***

#### Graduate Medical Education

As has been noted in at least one recent budget briefing from the Department of Health and Human Services, the line item for indirect and direct graduate medical education has been suspended for at least a decade. That said, as the state's only academic medical center, D-HH is ever hopeful that New Hampshire will resume support for the work of training the medical workforce of the future.

***Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health urges Senate Finance to retain that line item in HB 1.***

#### Policy Issues in the Budget

The Senate received this year's budget with a number of policy issues included in HB 2. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health has concerns about the following policy provisions.

- ***Divisive Concepts (f/k/a HB 544)***

Our ability to provide exceptional patient care depends on attracting and retaining diverse talent. D-HH is committed to increasing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging at D-HH member organizations in order to build and maintain a healing patient care community that explicitly recognizes the value of human diversity. As a contractor with the state, we are concerned that our efforts to advance this work could be undermined by the limitations imposed by this policy.

***Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health urges the Senate to remove the policy provision prohibiting the teaching of "divisive concepts", currently Section 330 of HB 2. Please see full statement in opposition attached, signed by each of our member hospitals and the VNH for VT and NH.***

- ***UniteUs Contract***

In October, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services entered into a contract with UniteUs to implement a closed loop referral system. This referral system will enable social service organizations to coordinate services, which in turn will allow for the efficient use of limited resources.

***Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health urges you to remove the policy provision pertaining to the closed loop referral system, currently Section 372 of HB2.***

Thank you for your consideration.



Matthew Houde  
Vice President, Government Relations  
[Matthew.s.houde@hitchcock.org](mailto:Matthew.s.houde@hitchcock.org)  
603-653-1974



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May 4, 2021

Since May 23, 2016, with the help and support of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health, I have been engaged in the most important work of my professional life. On that May morning we launched a non-partisan, non-political public mental health awareness campaign, REACT. The goal was simple: to make the five most common signs of mental illness as well-known and as widely known as the signs of a heart attack or a stroke.

Over the next four years until the onset of COVID-19 I drove over 84,000 miles on highways and backroads in all kinds of weather throughout New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and Massachusetts speaking in-person to over 110,000 people. The large majority were school students - about 90,000 - in grades 6-12. I have visited over 300 schools to date, and spoken in more high school gyms and auditoriums than I knew existed. But I have also spoken to others: health care providers, business leaders, lawyers, teachers, athletic directors, faith congregations, school administrators, law enforcement, and first responders among others. I have adjusted for COVID and continue my speaking through virtual forums. My message is always the same and so is the response. We are failing the mental health needs of our citizens of all ages. People listen and share. What I have seen, learned and experienced these last five years has opened my eyes and touched me deeply.

All of us know that we have looked the other way on mental illness for generations – in part because of the stigma, misunderstanding and shame that have been its companions. When the nation de-institutionalized state mental patients in the 1960's and 1970's the goal was to build a vibrant community mental health system to treat mental health needs closer to home, family and friends. The change was smart, evidenced-based and long overdue. Only those who were a risk to themselves or others could be confined against their will at the state hospital after de-institutionalization began. (At its high water mark NH Hospital housed well over 2,000 people.) As recently as the mid to late 1980's New Hampshire's community mental health system was recognized as one of the best in the country. But no longer. The mainstay for community mental health and substance use treatment providers is Medicaid reimbursement. New Hampshire has one of the lowest reimbursement rates in the nation. Our community behavioral health providers are not able to meet the patient needs in their communities through no fault of their own. But it's not a mystery why they can't.

Mental illness affects 1 in 5 adults during their lifetime and 1 in 5 adolescents, too. Half of all mental illness begins by age 14; 2/3 begins by age 23. Early diagnosis and treatment are key. Anxiety and depression are epidemic in public and private schools in New Hampshire and across the country. I have seen it at every school I visit. According to the national youth risk behavioral survey 2019 results, over 40% of high school girls in America are experiencing depression, 25% have given "serious consideration" to taking their own lives in the previous 12 months, 15% made plans to kill themselves in that same timeframe and 7% actually attempted suicide. The rate of suicide for people from ages 10-24 increased 56% from 2007-2017 according to the CDC.

In the last several years of school visits I have hugged three to four thousands kids with wet eyes and cracking voices who have shared their mental health journeys with me after my talk. Less than half of those kids are getting any help from anyone. That is consistent with national statistics. The fears, worries and isolation COVID-19 has created are only making mental health challenges more widespread and often more acute. The



wave is building and we are not prepared for it. But we can change that outcome if we choose.

Most people experiencing mental health challenges do not fit the stereotype that has long existed and gone largely unchallenged. In fact, most are working, going to school, playing varsity sports, raising families, teaching school, doing public service, representing legal clients and treating their medical patients. But most don't talk about it and many find it hard to find treatment or to afford the treatment they find. I have spoken with too many parents who wait three to six months for their teenage child to be seen by a mental health provider, and to others who are paying as much as \$2,000 a day out of pocket for residential treatment. We have adolescents and young adults "boarding" every night in New Hampshire hospitals waiting for a bed to open at Hampstead Hospital or the State Hospital. Sometimes they wait many days or many weeks. While they wait they are not getting the treatment they need. It doesn't need to be that way. These are our kids.

The story in school is common: many kids dealing with mental health challenges, too few school counselors available and generally very few timely referral options. In 2019 Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health hosted a two day Youth Summit in Concord. Students from 63 public high schools participated. One of the student recommendations was crystal clear: "we need more counselors and more specialized counselors in our schools." We should listen to them.

From my five years "on the road" I see the following needs:

- (1) Increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for behavioral health providers;
- (2) Assistance for public schools to hire and to retain more school counselors;
- (3) Funding for both adolescent and adult mobile crisis units that can respond to a person or family where they live;
- (4) More transitional, step-down housing for those able to leave the state psychiatric hospital or Hampstead Hospital but who are not yet ready to return to a less supported environment;
- (5) Increased outpatient psychiatric services and a much more vibrant referral network;
- (6) Additional beds at both the state psychiatric hospital and Hampstead Hospital;
- (7) Improved mental health services at the state prison and the county jails;
- (8) Universal screening for mental health and substance use challenges for pediatric patients so we can find, diagnose and treat behavioral health challenges among the young;
- (9) Expanded and telehealth mental health services that are funded;
- (10) Support for integrated primary care and mental health care; and
- (11) Requirement that insurance coverage includes mental health services in the same way we insure physical health services; we DO NOT have parity.

New Hampshire should be doing all it can to support community behavioral health providers and supportive services. We need to create access for the ever increasing number of kids and adults who need timely, affordable mental health care. Failure comes with its own price tag and sometimes with tragedy. We must invest in the mental health and wellness of New Hampshire kids and adults. It will pay dividends going forward.

John T. Broderick, Jr.  
Sr. Director External Affairs  
(603) 496-3378  
(603) 629-1270  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock.org

**D-HH statement in opposition to legislation relative to the propagation of divisive concepts**

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health (D-HH) understands that diversity fosters innovation and creates a welcoming and inclusive environment for our patients, colleagues, and communities. We all work better when we interact with others in a respectful and open-hearted manner.

Our ability to provide exceptional patient care depends on attracting and retaining diverse talent, which inclusive work environments facilitate. It takes ongoing commitment and effort to appreciate individualities, nurture differences, and to cultivate and maintain a respectful work environment.

D-HH is working to cultivate a respectful work environment in several ways: We are developing a consistent system-wide patient and family non-discrimination policy that outlines the standards of behavior that recognize the rich spectrum of human diversity. And as a member of the Healthcare Anchor Network (HAN), we are one of 40 health care systems nationwide that have signed HAN's Racism is a Public Health Crisis statement, and we are working actively to support community health needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. D-HH also established a Diversity and Inclusion Task Force and is evaluating how well the D-HH system is fulfilling its stated commitment to "building and maintaining a healing patient care community that explicitly recognizes the value of human diversity" and is outlining key initiatives to advance our organization's commitment.

To increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging at D-HH member organizations, D-HH is steadfast in its goal to conduct a critical evaluation of how well the D-HH system is fulfilling its stated DEIB commitment, as well as to establish a baseline understanding of DEIB efforts that are currently under way across the system.

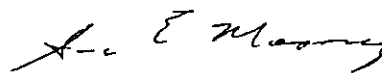
Based on the findings of this work, the Task Force has made recommendations that include system-wide education and training efforts. As a contractor with the state, those efforts – whether internal or utilizing external contractors - could be undermined by the limitations imposed by the bill relative to the propagation of divisive concepts (stand-alone was HB 544 but the language was added to HB-2, the budget trailer bill).

We do not want the meaningful, difficult but necessary work in which we are engaged to be undermined by this proposed legislation, and we do not believe the state of New Hampshire should enable any impediment to attracting the best, most diverse, workforce possible. As such, D-HH opposes the bill relative to the propagation of divisive concepts and encourages the Senate to oppose as well.

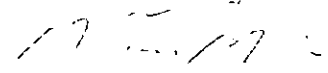
**Joanne M. Conroy, MD**  
President and CEO,  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock and  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health



**Susan E. Mooney, MD, MS**  
President and CEO,  
Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital



**M. Tom Manion, MPA, FACHE, CMPE**  
President and CEO,  
New London Hospital



**Don Caruso, MD, MPH**  
President and CEO,  
Cheshire Medical Center



**Johanna L. Beliveau, DNP, MBA, RN**  
President and CEO,  
Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont  
and New Hampshire



**Joseph L. Perras, MD**  
President and CEO, Chief Medical Officer,  
Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Dellie Champagne <dchampagne@new-futures.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:35 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** A letter from an Advocate

Dear Senators,

Did you know that 90% of current smokers began smoking when they were 18 or younger? Or that more than 1,900 residents in New Hampshire are killed annually because of tobacco use? For those who do not die from smoking, the annual healthcare cost to our state is an astronomical - \$729 million! Who pays for this? Granite Staters do and it isn't fair.

Every year New Hampshire receives \$245.3 million in tobacco taxes and tobacco settlement payments yet spends less than one percent of this income on programs to prevent our young people from smoking or to help smokers quit. Comprehensive tobacco and prevention programs are a proven method of preventing teens from starting to smoke and helping youth and adult smokers to quit.

It is imperative that that we fund tobacco prevention programs to educate youth on the harms of smoking because the tobacco companies are spending huge sums to promote their deadly and addictive products. In New Hampshire alone, according to recent data, tobacco companies spend \$84.5 million annually on marketing and promotion, much of which influences kids to take up smoking. Put another way, tobacco companies spend \$234 to market their products for every \$1 New Hampshire spends to reduce tobacco use and dependence.

The Department of Public Health's Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Unit requested an additional \$230,000 to continue funding an adolescent tobacco helpline specializing in adolescent vaping. "My Life, My Quit" combines best practices for youth tobacco cessation, adapted to include electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and new ways to reach a coach using live text messaging and online chat. This tool would fill a major gap in cessation services that have traditionally been focused solely on adult tobacco users.

Unfortunately, the funding was not a part of either the Governor's or House budget. I ask you to please restore these funds which would be a drop in the bucket compared to the revenue raised through tobacco taxes. Aren't our kids – our future leaders – worth it?

Anthony A. Parker, M.Ed., CAES  
Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education  
Nashua School District  
141 Ledge Street  
Nashua, New Hampshire 03060  
603-966-1004





American Heart Association.

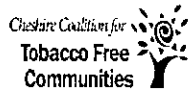


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Dartmouth-Hitchcock

New Hampshire  
MEDICAL SOCIETY  
ADVOCATING FOR PHYSICIANS & PUBLIC HEALTH SINCE 1791



April 21, 2021

The Honorable Gary Daniels, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
107 North Main St.  
Concord, NH 03301

**Re: State Budget Request for Funding to Support Youth Tobacco Prevention and Cessation and Restoring funding for Division of Liquor Enforcement positions.**

Dear Senator Daniels and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Tobacco Free New Hampshire (TFNH) is a diverse network of public health advocacy organizations and healthcare professionals dedicated to reducing the health complications and death toll due to tobacco use. We are contacting you today to consider the following items regarding the budget passed by the House of Representative and our concerns regarding the lack funding for youth cessation programs and the proposed elimination of the Division of Enforcement and Licensing under the New Hampshire Liquor Commission.

**First, our organizations support a state budget that increases tobacco control funding by \$220,000 per year to provide cessation resources for youth under the age of 18, who are now addicted to nicotine caused largely by electronic cigarette/vape use. This modest funding will enable the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP) to launch an initiative to help keep granite state youth healthy.**

Prior legislatures in New Hampshire (NH) have passed evidence-based policies to help reduce tobacco use among youth and adult smokers. Policies including smoke-free restaurants, regulating electronic cigarettes under the tobacco statutes, and raising the minimum legal sales age to 21, are all positive steps towards reducing youth tobacco use rates. However, tobacco prevention and cessation efforts have been woefully underfunded in New Hampshire. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends states fund a comprehensive tobacco control program and that amount, based on New Hampshire's population, is \$16.5 million annually. **NH has funded tobacco control at less than \$400,000 per year.** Increased funding for our tobacco prevention program is

critically important as one third of Granite State youth are now using e-cigarettes, which contain addictive nicotine as their primary tobacco ingredient.<sup>1</sup>

National data shows that 95 percent of adult smokers started before turning 21, when adolescent brains are rapidly developing and especially susceptible to lifetime nicotine addiction. This is a time when youth can be subject to negative brain development impact, addiction, and a wide range of adverse health effects, including cancer, lung disease, heart disease and stroke. Nicotine is a gateway to other substance use disorders – opioids, alcohol, amphetamines, and THC.

In addition to its efficiency budget request of a little more than \$385,000 each year, the DHHS requested \$220,000 yearly for a youth cessation initiative specifically tailored for those under age 18. Unfortunately, this modest amount of funding was not included in the Governor's or House budget proposal. Details about this initiative follow:

- The New Hampshire Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP) engaged youth and helped develop and launch a multiplatform prevention and intervention campaign called Save Your Breath NH (<https://saveyourbreathnh.org>) in SFY 2020/21.
- In SFY 2022/23, TPCP will evaluate the knowledge gained through data analysis and plans to relaunch the campaign with NH adolescents taking the lead as peer influencers. When adolescents visit the website (<https://saveyourbreathnh.org>) there is a link to My Life My Quit™, a free and confidential adolescent helpline to quit smoking or vaping. This adolescent focused quit line launched in October 2019.
- Ongoing evaluations of the impact of the campaign will be used to make improvements during phase two. TPCP plans to continue to work with adolescents to decrease youth initiation of electronic cigarettes. TPCP will also collaborate with local communities, School Administrative Units and School Boards to encourage referrals to My Life My Quit™ when a minor violates tobacco use policies.

New Hampshire received \$214 million in tobacco taxes in 2020 but spent less than \$400,000 on initiatives to prevent kids from using tobacco and to help smokers quit. After years of not adequately funding tobacco prevention or cessation services, the time is right to increase resources for those impacted by tobacco related illnesses and those wanting to quit. The return on investment is enormous both economically and for the health of our kids, the next generation.

**Secondly, our organizations are opposed to the section in the House approved budget which abolishes 21 enforcement positions within the NH Liquor Commission- Division of Liquor Enforcement- and renames it to the Division of "Licensing and Education". Simply put, this move will jeopardize the safe operation of licensed vaping and alcohol establishments and the Division's ability to protect vulnerable aged youth.**

In addition, this proposal would put in peril federal funding the Department of Human Health Services receives through the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration. The \$12.8 million grant supports substance misuse prevention, early-intervention, treatment, and recovery support services in the state. Under this grant, states are required to provide documentation for compliance and enforcement of youth tobacco access laws as delineated in reporting provisions of the Public Health Services Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-26) and Tobacco Regulation for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) (45 C.F.R. 96.130 (e)). The Department provides \$50,000 to the Division of Liquor Enforcement to perform the required compliance checks. If the Division can no longer serve as the enforcement arm for this grant, this critical funding would be put at risk.

The TFNH network organizations are aware these are very challenging times for passing a balanced budget, but funding for tobacco cessation and a means to enforce laws to protect our young people need to be prioritized this

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• <sup>1</sup> The 2019 NH Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) showed that 33.8% of high school students reported they used e-cigarettes in the 30 days prior to taking the survey. The national average was 27.5%.

legislative session for the health and safety of Granite State youth. For this reason, the undersigned members of the Tobacco Free NH network strongly urge inclusion of these important public health measures in the state budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Albee Budnitz, MD, FACP, FCCP - Chairman of Tobacco Free New Hampshire

Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

Breathe New Hampshire

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

Cheshire Coalition for Tobacco Free Communities

New Futures

NH Medical Society

NH Pharmacists Association

Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation/Tobacco 21

April 29, 2021

Honorable Gary Daniels, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
New Hampshire State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Daniels and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

We wish to share our appreciation of your service to the citizens of New Hampshire, and to the difficult task ahead of you in determining a budget at a time unlike any other in recent history. We are aware of the challenges that the pandemic has presented to all manner of business and life, and that it will make what is normally a tough process that much more challenging.

The outbreak of COVID-19 affected nearly all aspects of normal life. The sudden halt of economic activity and travel created a devastating impact on the economy – layoffs, furloughs, and unemployment reaching levels not seen since the Great Depression. While the dire economic consequences have impacted businesses of all sizes and all types of industries, **the tourism and hospitality industry has been one of the hardest impacted** by the pandemic.

While the financial impact to our industry is still being calculated, we know the COVID-19 pandemic reduced tourism activity in the state by approximately 35%. Right now, is the time for the State to maintain its investment in promoting travel and tourism to New Hampshire to help recapture this lost visitor activity, boost our hospitality businesses, and accelerate the recovery of the State's Rooms & Meals tax back to pre-pandemic levels.

As State leaders, we urge you to consider the tourism marketing budgets of **\$9,521,288 for FY 22** and **\$9,568,639 for FY 23** as an **investment** in the present and future of our tourism and hospitality industry.

Tourism and hospitality are key industries in New Hampshire. In fact, it is well-documented that every dollar that the State spends on promoting tourism yields a multifold return on investment. According to data from the Division of Travel and Tourism Development's (DTTD) independent researcher SMARInsights, in 2019 over 600,000 trips to New Hampshire were influenced by DTTD's advertising campaigns, contributing \$371 million in travel spending, and collecting \$33 million in Rooms and Meals tax from visitor spending – about 10% of the state's general fund. In other words, not only does the promotion drive traffic to the State, but we have seen it **achieve an ROI of \$13 for every \$1 spent**.

These tax dollars also add value to New Hampshire's taxpayers as they support essential services such as public safety, education, parks, roads, and infrastructure. Without tourism, each household in New Hampshire would have to **pay additional taxes every year** to make up the difference that comes from visitor spending.

Additionally, with visitor monies coming in, there is continued spending of tourism revenues by local businesses and employees creating a secondary impact. Although the New Hampshire tourism industry is primarily made up of businesses in the accommodations/food services, recreation/entertainment and retail industries; the secondary impact reaches nearly all industry sectors in the state. Thus, **the tourism industry indeed has a wide-ranging economic impact** within the state.

Furthermore, the promotional budget helps fund the **Joint Promotional Program (JPP)**, which is a matching grant program managed and funded by the DTTD budget. This program is used by travel and tourism-based organizations and chambers of commerce like the ones included on this letter to help fund additional promotional programs. Without JPP dollars, many of these organizations will either have to scale back or simply cease their marketing efforts. These are also promotional programs which add to the **overall promotional voice of the State** and help draw visitors, thereby adding revenue to businesses and to the State's tax funds.

We understand the need to adjust the budget to address the shortfalls caused by the pandemic. However, as you consider the Travel and Tourism budget, consider the proven track record that additional spending has had on our businesses and taxes. **Investing in tourism marketing yields positive results**, and is not only critical to growth, but also to recapture and maintain our market share.

The reality is that there is a lot of competition for consumers' travel dollars, especially with the numbers of travelers being so dramatically reduced globally. The investment of \$9.5 million in tourism promotion for each of the next two years could shorten the tourism industry's timeline for recovery by 2-3 years.

Thank you for considering our request, and please feel free to reach out to Jessyca, Charyl or Mike with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Jessyca Keeler  
President  
Ski New Hampshire  
603-745-9396

Charyl Reardon  
President  
White Mountains Attractions  
603-745-8720

Mike Somers  
President  
NH Lodging & Restaurant Assoc.  
603-228-9585

Additional Chambers, Associations, and Organizations in support of the tourism budget:

Pam Sullivan and Rebecca Metcalf, Co-Chairs, New Hampshire Travel Council  
Janice Crawford, Executive Director, Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Wendy Hunt, President and CEO, Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce  
Amy Landers, Executive Director, Lakes Region Tourism Association  
Kim Pickering, Executive Director, Western White Mountains Chamber of Commerce  
Jeremy Sprince, Executive Director, New Hampshire Campground Owners' Association  
Michael Skelton, President & CEO, Greater Manchester Chamber  
Phil Suter, President/CEO, Greater Keene & Peterborough Chamber  
Valerie Rochon, President, The Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth



Kimby Wade  
Gilford, NH  
KWade@ppnh.org

To the members of the Finance Committee,

Mental health is increasingly being acknowledged as an essential part of overall health, as well as recognized for its influence on behavior and impact on physical wellness. Poor mental health can be particularly devastating to youth as their brains are still in the process of developing and maturing. The pressures of everyday life and the unexpected changes brought about by the recent and open-ended pandemic has also had a negative and escalating effect, especially for young people. For these reasons, legislators should ensure that funding is designated and allotted for youth mental and behavioral health in the upcoming NH state budget.

Because the brain of a young person is still in a stage of development, they may respond and react to stress quite differently than adults, which could result in them experiencing anxiety, depression, and/or some other type of stress-related mental disorder. Additionally, “ongoing changes in the brain, along with physical, emotional, and social changes, can make teens vulnerable to mental health problems. All the big changes the brain is experiencing may explain why adolescence is a time when many mental disorders - such as schizophrenia, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, and eating disorders - can emerge” (source: <http://bit.ly/teen-brainNIMH>).

Being a NH resident engaged in prevention work as well as a mother of 4 boys from 5-19 years old, this has become more evident with each passing year. Young people do better and are more likely to thrive and flourish when supported with a whole person approach. Furthermore, “because many health behaviors and habits are established in adolescence that will carry over into adult years, it is very important to help youth develop good mental health” (source: <http://bit.ly/youthmhCDC>). Thus, establishing good mental health habits early on in life will likely lead to ongoing and overall good health and wellbeing throughout one’s lifespan.

By contrast, untreated and/or poor mental health can be a potential risk factor for suicide, currently the second leading cause of death in NH for ages 10-44 (source: <http://bit.ly/afsp2020nh>). America’s Health Ranking notes that “risk factors associated with suicide among adolescents include psychiatric disorders such as major depressive, bipolar, conduct and substance use disorders; psychiatric comorbidity especially the combination of mood, disruptive and substance abuse disorders; family history of depression or suicide; loss of a parent to death or divorce; physical and/or sexual abuse; lack of a support network; feelings of social isolation; and bullying” (source: <http://bit.ly/ahr2020suicide>). Safeguarding youth mental and behavioral health needs to be a priority.

Good mental and behavioral health is imperative to NH youth for them to become healthy and well-functioning Granite State adults. One way we can make certain this happens is by funding services and providing supports that treat as well as teach youth how to manage and maintain good mental health as prevention is key to lasting change and progression. Legislators can boost this endeavor by expanding and enhancing the capacity within NH, ensuring much needed resources dedicated to the mental and behavioral health of future generations has been included in the NH state budget. Thank you for your time and attention, please have a splendid day.

Respectfully,  
Kimby Wade  
Director of Prevention Strategies  
Partnership for Public Health

State of NH Finance Committee,

I am on the board of Farmsteads of New England (FNE). Farmsteads has 2 locations, one in Hillsborough and one in Epping offering both residential and day service to adults with Autism Spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities. The reason for this letter is because the current funding for each individual for residential and day services is not enough to maintain overhead expenses and attract perspective employees.

The prior NH budget did allocate a 3% increase which alleviated some of the compensation burden for the employees. Currently this is not enough to compete with current wages being offered by other employers in the state. For example, Wendy's is offering compensation of \$15 per hour. Farmsteads is currently able to offer starting compensation of around \$12 in Hillsborough and about \$13 in Epping which is not enough to attract from the same pool of candidates that is also supplying hospitality and other NH job markets. If facilities like Farmsteads, who are rendering services to the non-voting population cannot employ personnel due to non-competing monetary compensation, then the population serviced will be impacted and may necessitate facilities to shut down.

So, I am hoping that as you finalize the budget that you take my request of increasing the budgets for individuals into consideration in order that Farmsteads and other facilities will be able to compete with the current employee shortages.

Denise M. Nash MD  
Farmsteads of New England Board Member

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Bruce Kinney <bruce.a.kinney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:52 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove "divisive concepts" language from HB2

I urge you to remove this language from HB2. It is an embarrassment to our great state. We cannot heal our divisions and move forward toward a safer and more prosperous New Hampshire if we can't talk about the injustices that plague us. I will be watching your vote.

Bruce Kinney  
Amherst, NH

**Debra Martone**

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**From:** Heather Gigliello <heathergigliello28@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 4:31 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB2

Dear Ms. Martone,

I urge you to reject HB2 with the embedded language surrounding the Propagation of Divisive Concepts Prohibited (formally HB544). This goes against our democratic freedoms in the United States of America.

In addition, the wording makes the bill appear to be against racism and sexism; however, as you may know, the colorblind approach to social justice is naive and negligent. Prohibiting the discussion around these issues and their complexities is extremely dangerous and ultimately does a disservice to our children.

Please consider opposing HB2.

Sincerely,  
Heather Gigliello, MS, MA  
Educator and Mother  
Harrisville, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Heather Inyart <heather.inyart@mediapoweryouth.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 5:15 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Media Power Youth - pgm research results

Senator Daniels,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me about prevention and mental health and asking such thoughtful questions about our programs. Our approach to this issue is grounded in media literacy, a set of skills that help young people better understand how media and technology platforms influence their thoughts, behaviors, and perceptions of risk. Social media is how young people build and foster positive relationships, which have been identified as a protective factor in youth development. A 2019 study, *Adolescent Connectedness and Adult Health Outcomes*, published in the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, found that adults who experienced stronger connections as youth were 55% less likely to have mental health issues including depression and anxiety, misuse substances, and/or engage in violence.

We regularly assess our programs and have partnered with the Digital Wellness Lab (formerly the Center on Media and Child Health) at Boston Children's Hospital in measuring our results. As an example in 2019, we conducted a research evaluation of our *Screenshots* curriculum, a program developed and funded through the DOJ grant. *Screenshots* strives to achieve digital wellness and improve young people's mental health by encouraging respectful online behaviors, fostering prosocial conflict resolution, reducing cyberbullying, and interrupting negative peer pressure.

The study (which compared teens who received the program to those who did not) demonstrated the effectiveness of the program in helping students understand these key concepts and the skills they need to continue to develop to weather such stresses longer term. Participants also rated the program highly on "relevance" and said they learned something new, suggesting that there is still a great need for this type of program in the state of New Hampshire.

The research was funded by the Technology and Adolescent Wellness Program at the University of Wisconsin's Department of Pediatrics. Media Power Youth was one of only 6 projects in the US selected for this initiative. We are now working with JMIR Mental Health, a peer-reviewed research journal featuring internet interventions for mental health and behavior change, to publish the results in special themed issue in the fall. After reviewing our results, the Technology and Adolescent Wellness Program funded another Media Power Youth project, which is currently underway to assess our *Digital EQ and Mental Health* program.

Continuing to fund Media Power Youth will ensure that these programs are disseminated across New Hampshire and our youth will receive the support and skill-building opportunities they need to thrive in our high-pressure, digitally connected world. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there are additional questions I can answer or more information I can provide. My cell phone is 513-290-7415.

Thank you for your service to our state and I appreciate you taking the time to learn more about the impact of our programs in New Hampshire. I have also copied Deb Martone so this email can be submitted to the Senate Finance Committee to inform budget decisions.

Best,  
Heather

*Heather Inyart*

Executive Director

**Media Power Youth**

1245 Elm Street Manchester NH 03101

p: 603.222.1200 c: 513-290-7415

[mediapoweryouth.org](http://mediapoweryouth.org)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Chris Potter <cpotter@granitestateorganizing.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 10:14 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Remove "Divisive Concepts" Language from State Budget

Dear Senators,

I am a New Hampshire resident who is very concerned about the "Divisive Concepts" language in the state budget. I understand how the language is phrased to be limited, yet I fear any parent who is upset by their child learning anything about racial history in the US could make a claim against the bill, causing such headaches for school administrators that they would begin avoiding the topic of race. Even if the bill does not prohibit all discussion of racial (and sexist) history in the US, it would have a significant chilling effect. However, it is extremely important to heal this nation and address its ongoing racial and sexual inequities that our next generation understands how they arose.

For that reason, I strongly urge you to remove the "Divisive Concepts" language from the state budget.

Thank you,  
Chris Potter

--

The Rev. Chris Potter  
Faith Community Organizer  
Granite State Organizing Project  
Manchester, NH

781-454-5820

@CPotterMHT

[cpotter@granitestateorganizing.org](mailto:cpotter@granitestateorganizing.org)

Schedule a 1:1 with me here: <https://calendly.com/cpottergsop/1-1-with-chris>

## Debra Martone

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**From:** MAJA SMITH <majahauck@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:47 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Please Remove the Language of HB 544 from SB 2

Dear Senators,

I would like to reiterate my strong opposition to the inclusion of the language from HB 544 in SB 2 and ask for its removal.

The language bans state agencies, K-12 schools, public colleges and universities, and state contractors from learning about and addressing systemic racism and sexism – a critical part of overcoming barriers to a healthy and equitable community.

Best wishes,

Maja Smith



## Debra Martone

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**From:** usrdtm <usrdtm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 7:14 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Fw: Senate Finance

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Gary Daniels <Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us>  
**Date:** 5/5/21 11:45 AM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** Deb Martone <usrdtm@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Fw: Senate Finance

For OneDrive

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**From:** Elizabeth Kosta <lizkosta@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 8:34 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels <Gary.Daniels@leg.state.nh.us>; John Reagan <john.reagan111@gmail.com>; Lou D'Allesandro <dalas@leg.state.nh.us>; Chuck Morse <Chuck.Morse@leg.state.nh.us>; Bob Giuda <Bob.Giuda@leg.state.nh.us>; Cindy Rosenwald <cindy.rosenwald@leg.state.nh.us>; Erin Hennessey <Erin.Hennessey@leg.state.nh.us>  
**Subject:** Senate Finance

Good Morning,

SB 130 does not adequately address the needs of special education students. Back in 2018, after careful study of SB193 (that year's EFA bill) and consultation with experts, the House Finance Comm. wrote: "the committee discovered that only public schools are bound to deliver a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) and that almost no non-public school is equipped with appropriately trained staff and/or willing to invest its resources in meeting complicated special needs." HC17 page 19 (2018). So parents will be waiving their child's right to special ed services and sending them to a private school that has no intention or ability to meet the child's special needs.

Little consideration has been given, in discussions of SB130 to date, to the issue of whether parents of students with special needs will be given adequate guidance about the rights they will be waiving, on behalf of their children. In other states using vouchers, there have been many complaints from parents who removed their child from public school and placed them in private school, and were shocked to discover that the private school didn't offer the kinds of services that had been included in their child's IEP. You might say, "Well, then they can send their child back to public school," but this disregards the educational disruption and emotional turmoil that could result from repeated changes in placement.

Thank you for your time.

Elizabeth Kosta M.Ed.

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Claudia Damon <cordsdamon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 2:16 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Don't be a tool for out-of-state interests: NH voter comments for the record

Please read this, dear Senate Finance Committee members.

There may be some information here that you are not aware of. Please don't let yourselves be used as a tool for out-of-state interests that do not care about NH at all.

The public doesn't want vouchers. A national group is shoving this down NH Senators' throats and they should beware and gag.

NHGOP Senators will undermine public schools with a massive voucher bill, SB130, which they are expected to roll into the budget to avoid legitimate consideration of the many problems it presents. They will then have joined the national movement to do away with public schools. This movement exists and doesn't care about NH. A former lobbyist describes the movement here: [tinyurl.com/2b4cjepe](https://tinyurl.com/2b4cjepe) . It is frightening. Talk about losing local control!!!! And raising property taxes.

At the Senate Finance Committee hearing May 4, no one testified in favor of SB130 or rolling it into the budget. Rolling it into the budget is undemocratic (sneaky way to get it passed) and dishonorable--a bill with such significant impact needs the careful examination and discussion of the normal legislative process, not an end run around it.

The voucher plan will take money from our starving public schools and send it along with kids who go to private schools.

The voucher bill uses public money but provides for no public oversight over how private schools are run, what they teach, their admissions decisions, the qualifications of their teachers, etc.

Sponsors say this is to help children who aren't getting what they need in public school, yet it's available to students who have never even set foot in public school.

Public schools are the bedrock of democracy. People of all backgrounds learn to work and play together and to be citizens in a diverse community. Support them!

Claudia Damon  
Concord NH  
603-226-4561

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Jane <janekate@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 3:22 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB2

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

We urge you to please remove the “divisive concepts” language from HB 2. We are not so naive as to think that racism or sexism will ever be eliminated. But it is critical that teachers can discuss our country’s history openly and honestly—the good, the bad and the ugly, so that students can better appreciate how American society has changed over time, and what challenges remain for their generation.

Minimizing or ignoring the truth about the history and impact of racism and sexism in our country is simply wrong, and it’s frankly embarrassing that the NH Legislature has pursued this.

We must face our history, learn from it, and work toward a more just society.

Thank you for your consideration. Jane and John Stephenson, Plainfield, NH

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Denise Clark <denise.m.clark03055@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 9:50 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 544 in HB 2

As a native NH resident and voter, I OPPOSE the inclusion of the language of HB 544 in HB 2 for the following reasons:

- It does not belong in the budget - there is no direct financial component to it
- The intent of HB 544 is to stifle free speech First Amendment discussions regarding the historical basis of the current state of race relations in modern America
- The rhetoric of HB 544 will discourage young entrepreneurs and workers from relocating to NH
- HB 544 is a purported "solution" looking for a supposed "problem"

What are legislators really trying to accomplish with this bill?

Is honest discussion so threatening to NH's legislators?

Why is NH adopting the stance of FL's legislature?

I expect NH legislators to do what is right for NH. HB 544 is not it.

Regards,  
Denise Clark  
577 North River Road  
Milford, NH 03055  
[denise.m.clark03055@gmail.com](mailto:denise.m.clark03055@gmail.com)

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Elyse Hyman <Elyse.hyman@jewishnh.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 11:29 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** sarit.itenberg@gmail.com; ken@traly.com; dmichaelchaitowitz@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Our opposition to Chapter 10-C of HB 2, Propagation of Divisive Concepts Prohibited (formerly, HB 544)  
**Attachments:** Statemenet about HB544.pdf



May 10, 2021

Senator Gary Daniels, Chairperson  
Senator John Reagan, Vice Chairperson  
Senator Lou D'Allesandro  
Senator Bob Giuda  
Senator Erin Hennessey  
Senator Chuck Morse  
Senator Cindy Rosenwald  
Senate Finance Committee  
The New Hampshire State Senate  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: Chapter 10-C of HB 2, Propagation of Divisive Concepts Prohibited (formerly, HB 544)**

Dear Senators:

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire strongly opposes Chapter 10-C of HB 2, Propagation of Divisive Concepts Prohibited (formerly, HB 544) and urges you to reject it in its entirety.

Schools have an essential role in teaching students how to examine important societal issues and engage in appropriate civil discourse and political expression. Indeed, the Supreme Court of the United States has on more than one occasion recognized the importance of schools in protecting the ability of students and teachers to engage in open and robust discussion about issues that affect our democracy. It is within our schools that our youth are taught the skills with which to engage in civil discussion about complex societal issues and ready themselves to participate in a positive and constructive way in the democratic process. That schools are educating the young for citizenship is reason to ensure that free and open discussion is fostered and encouraged.

Aspects of Chapter 10-C (such as the paragraph prohibiting teaching that one race is inherently superior to another race) may be cited by supporters of the proposed legislation as evidence that the statute is well-intentioned. Other provisions, however (such as the one that defines as “divisive” discussion about whether the United States is “fundamentally racist” and the one that casts as “divisive” the idea that citizens “bea[r] responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race”) will have a chilling effect on the ability of teachers to engage students in healthy and uncensored conversation about racism and intolerance in the United States, the lingering effects of colonization, slavery, segregation, and oppression, and the role of citizens with respect to societal inequities. In this regard, the proposed statute appears completely at odds with the stated findings and purposes of An Act Relative to Holocaust and Genocide Studies Legislation, enacted in July 2020. It is worthwhile to remember what the General Court said when it passed that act:

Recognizing that democratic institutions and values are not automatically sustained, but need active civic responsibility and engagement, the general court finds that it is necessary, as part of an adequate education, to ensure that students are taught the historical facts about the Holocaust and other genocides and how intolerance, bigotry, antisemitism, and national, ethnic, racial, and religious hatred and discrimination have evolved in the past, and can evolve, into genocide and mass violence. The general court further finds that through education about the Holocaust and other forms of genocide, their causes, the consequences of intolerance, bigotry, antisemitism, and hate, and the lessons to be drawn for the present, students will understand the fragility of democracy, the importance of democratic principles, and the power of individual choices in preventing genocide.

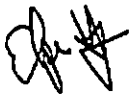
The sentiments expressed in these findings and purposes apply with equal force in this context.

Many businesses believe that the proposed statute will have a similar chilling effect on their ongoing efforts to create diverse and inclusive work environments.

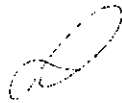
It is unsurprising therefore that so many well-respected organizations – organizations as diverse as the New Hampshire Institute for Civics Education, New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility, The Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire, The Black Heritage Trail, the Manchester NAACP, Dartmouth College, and the New Hampshire Council of Churches, to name just a few — have spoken against the proposed legislation.

We urge you to reject Chapter 10-C of HB 2, Propagation of Divisive Concepts Prohibited, in its entirety.

Respectfully,



Elyse Hyman  
Executive Director  
[Elyse.Hyman@jewishnh.org](mailto:Elyse.Hyman@jewishnh.org)



Dr. Sarit Itenberg  
Chair, Board of Directors  
[sarit.itenberg@gmail.com](mailto:sarit.itenberg@gmail.com)

*Elyse*

Elyse Hyman  
Executive Director  
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire  
Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9 - 5  
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Direct: 603-310-9939



Jewish Federation  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Glen Ring <glenring52@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 2:16 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SB130 in Budget?

Dear Ms. Martone,

Sent to all members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Please do not roll SB130 into the budget bill. It does not belong there and doing so ignores the will of the people who have overwhelmingly testified against it. Sneaking this enormous change to our educational system into the budget is a bad faith tactic, betting on the governor to sign the budget, wanting to complete that task. This type of bad faith action undermines people's trust in government.

As you probably know, in 2018 a similar bill was considered. The House Finance Committee, at that time a majority Republicans, scrutinized the bill and decided there were too many unanswered questions to pass it. The current Voucher Bill is at least as problematic.

There are financial problems with the voucher bill - A Reaching Higher NH analysis would take money from our school districts and districts are already financially challenged.

I am more concerned, however, with a couple other aspects of the plan. The first is the lack of oversight of the Scholarship Organization that would award vouchers. Would part of my tax dollars go to fund a homeschool situation where there is no qualified person teaching the child who receives the voucher? It looks like the Scholarship Organization itself would be a private entity which would get a percentage of the voucher money, giving it an incentive to approve any situation whether it's qualified or not. It also looks like religious schools could receive voucher students - in that way my tax dollars might go to support a religious school teaching ideas I don't agree with. This violates a basic principal in our society - separation of church and state.

Finally, a voucher plan undermines public education. Free public education is a cornerstone of our society. It is something that societies all around the world envy. Within public education all kinds of choices are offered. Public schools also allow all members of our diverse and interesting population to get to know each other, work together and learn how to be citizens in our society. That is something we should not undermine frivolously or sneakily.

Thank you for your attention.

Glen Ring, Concord



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Deb Naro <dnaro@cadyinc.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 7:41 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Cc:** Griffin Roberge  
**Subject:** Please Support Juvenile Diversion via Sen. Giuda's Budget Amendment  
**Attachments:** Restorative Justice Summary Sheet - 17 Jan 2019.pdf; NH Juvenile Restorative Justice Fact Sheet 5.12.2021 edited.docx; Why Prevention Escalator Slide.jpg

**Importance:** High

Dear Ms. Martone,

I sent the email below to all Senate Finance Committee members this morning.

In addition, I'm wondering if I should send hard copies to each Senator?

Thanks so much for your assistance and service.

Sincerely,

Deb Naro

Debra A. Naro, M.Ed.  
Executive Director  
CADY, Inc.  
Communities for Alcohol- and Drug-free Youth  
Central NH Public Health Network Substance Misuse Prevention Provider  
Substance Use Disorders Continuum of Care Facilitator  
94 Highland Street  
Plymouth, NH 03264  
[dnaro@cadyinc.org](mailto:dnaro@cadyinc.org)  
(t) 603-536-9793  
(f) 603-536-9799

[www.cadyinc.org](http://www.cadyinc.org)

The Prevention Accelerator Media Campaign  
"Partnership for a Drug-Free 2015 NH Non-Profit Champion of the Year"  
"New Futures Youth-In-Action Award-2015"  
"NH Prevention Provider of the Year-2014"  
A Federal Drug-Free Community Coalition Graduate

"We cannot think our way into a new way of acting. We must act our way into a new way of thinking."

**From:** Deb Naro  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 7:31 AM  
**To:** gary.daniels@leg.state.nh.us  
**Cc:** Bob.Giuda@leg.state.nh.us; Griffin Roberge <Griffin.Roberge@leg.state.nh.us>  
**Subject:** Please Support Juvenile Diversion via Sen. Giuda's Budget Amendment  
**Importance:** High

Dear Senator Daniels:

I am writing to provide advance information for an urgent budget amendment to be introduced by Senator Bob Giuda. This amendment seeks to restore state funding to NH Juvenile Court Diversion programming and is supported by NH DCYF Director Joe Ribsam; NH Child Advocate Moira O'Neill; and the NH Juvenile Court Diversion Network on behalf of 20 juvenile diversion programs.

As a former legislator serving in the NH House from 2000-2006, I am familiar with the competing demands for funding and the hard job you have in crafting a responsible state budget. I respectfully ask for your support of community-based juvenile diversion at a critical juncture for our state's most vulnerable children and youth. These services have proven to save considerable state costs, both in the short-term, and long term. Formal court processing is 18 times more costly than juvenile diversion; further, juvenile diversion is twice as effective in reducing recidivism over the traditional NH Justice System (please see attached fact sheets for comparative analyses).

As you are aware, the ongoing mental health and addiction crises, and child protection issues our state is experiencing have taken a significant toll on New Hampshire's most vulnerable children and families, impacting all child-serving systems. These crises, and the pandemic which has increased adversity to us all, require immediate attention as our children's stability and welfare are at significant risk.

The scary truth is NH's children are in a significant and growing crisis. Community-based juvenile diversion programs provide a cost-effective and humane response for our children and youth with complex behavioral health needs, which increasingly represent most referrals to CADY's NH accredited program, the sole juvenile court diversion program in Central NH. We serve high-risk youth aged 10-18, the majority of whom have mental health diagnoses; early onset of substance misuse; academic distress; and serious family problems such as addiction and homelessness. Presently, 6 out of 7 youth referred from local police departments and schools are Medicaid eligible; are using drugs; and have parents who are, or have been, incarcerated.

The obstacles to successful implementation of proven juvenile diversion programs are in large part due to funding. With the past elimination of the NH Incentive Funds, half of NH juvenile diversion programs had to close their doors in 2009, and many are still struggling to remain in existence. Your support will ensure that youth in your district, and in our state, continue to receive juvenile diversion services in their home community rather than costly court-ordered processing and residential placements. Research supports that the right intervention at the right time can prevent a lifetime of offending and substance misuse that fuel each other in destructive patterns.

Senator Daniels, our kids are in trouble and their futures are at risk—please restore opportunities and vital services for our most vulnerable children.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Sincerely,

Deb Naro

Debra A. Naro, M.Ed.  
Executive Director

CADY, Inc.  
Communities for Alcohol- and Drug-free Youth  
Central NH Public Health Network Substance Misuse Prevention Provider  
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The Prevention Accelerator Media Campaign

"Partnership for a Drug-Free 2015 NH Non-Profit Champion of the Year"

"New Futures Youth-In-Action Award-2015"

"NH Prevention Provider of the Year-2014"

A Federal Drug-Free Community Coalition Graduate

"We cannot think our way into a new way of acting. We must act our way into a new way of thinking."

## JUVENILE COURT DIVERSION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire is home to upwards of 17 accredited programs that hold **youth accountable for juvenile crime** while ensuring they **benefit from education and support services to improve their behavior**. Whether housed in **police departments, governmental systems or community-based organizations**, New Hampshire’s Accredited Diversion programs share common goals and core values and are **significantly reducing recidivism**. **NH program completion rates average 87% (n=179, 2018 data)**.

**NH is unique in that Statute NH RSA169 Delinquent Children-B:10 Juvenile Diversion, requires Police and Courts to screen first-time offenders for diversion services.**

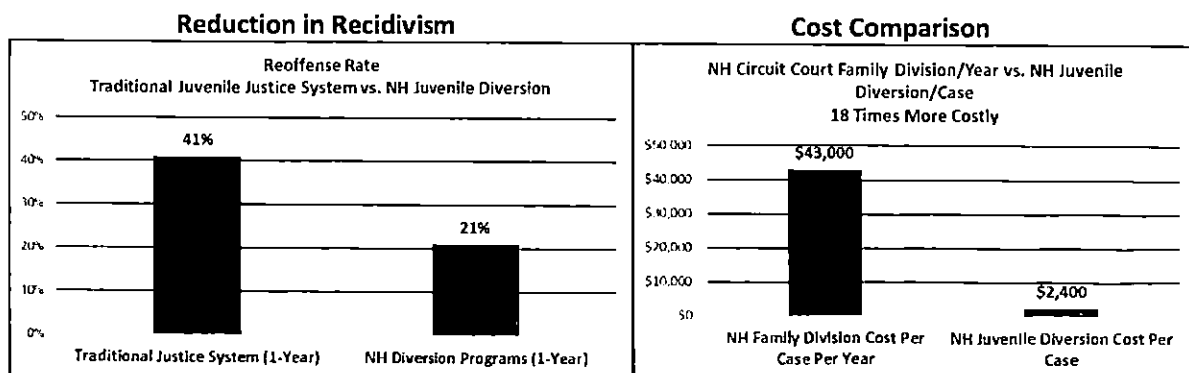
**Youth referred to accredited programs can expect to:**

- Be involved in a comprehensive, developmentally-appropriate accountability process that utilizes the **Restorative Justice** model
- Participate in an **assessment** to identify areas of strength and those needing assistance
- **Include their parent or guardian** in discussions about their well-being
- Meet with a **panel of volunteers** or staff members to discuss their case and develop a contract or written Accountability Agreement
- Spend **three to six months** completing requirements outlined in their contract/agreement
- Make **reparation to victims** including a written apology and financial restitution
- **Attend classes or workshops** per their contract along with participation in community service
- Have their **case closed with no juvenile conviction record**, provided the contract is complete with no further offenses committed.

Diversion programs accept referrals from a wide variety of sources including **police departments, prosecutors, judges, and schools**.

New Hampshire’s diversion programs have demonstrated success helping young people turn their lives around in significant ways. The most common offenses sent to diversion programs include:

- Threatening/Simple Assault/Bullying
- Possession of Alcohol
- Fire Setting
- Disorderly/Reckless Conduct
- Shoplifting/Theft
- Weapons
- Possession of Drugs
- Sexting
- Trespass/Mischief



## NH JUVENILE COURT DIVERSION FACT SHEET

Senator Giuda's budget amendment seeks to provide funding for accredited NH Juvenile Court Diversion programs to help support and sustain program implementation. Funding will also support expanded programming throughout the state where gaps in alternative juvenile sentencing leave high-risk youth and families without opportunities for community-based diversion. Many youth do not have the same chance to enter adulthood without a criminal record because of a lack of juvenile diversion programming in their region. Your support will ensure all NH youth have equal opportunity for resiliency-building services and life success.

**NEED:** In 2011 when funding from State of NH Incentive Funds lapsed, 20 NH diversion programs were forced to close their doors. NH Diversion Programs vary statewide in that several are hosted and funded by municipalities, police departments or county governments. However, most diversion programs are housed within small, struggling non-profits where inadequate program budgets put these programs at risk of closure.

The teen years are often a time of confusion and rebellion, and some youth make choices that lead them to the juvenile justice system. There are pockets of disadvantage in our state where difficult economic circumstances, emotional distress, and rural isolation put youth at greater risk. In the last several years, NH diversion programs have seen a significant increase of youth with mental health diagnoses, adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and early onset of substance misuse, violent offenses, and younger children referred for services.

**PROCESS:** Juvenile Court Diversion provides first-time youth offenders a "second chance" by keeping them in the community and preventing entry into the juvenile justice system, while also preventing the escalation of juvenile delinquency into more serious and often violent crimes.

NH Accredited Juvenile Diversion programs utilize a comprehensive, developmentally-appropriate restorative justice accountability process spanning a timeframe of 3-6 months. Youth referred from police departments, schools, and family courts participate in: assessments, strengths-based education, connection to needed services, and completing requirements of a reparative contract including community service. The Restorative Justice model leads to a deeper understanding of high-risk behaviors and is critical to treatment and prevention efforts. The right intervention at the right time can prevent a lifetime of offending and substance misuse that fuel each other in destructive patterns.

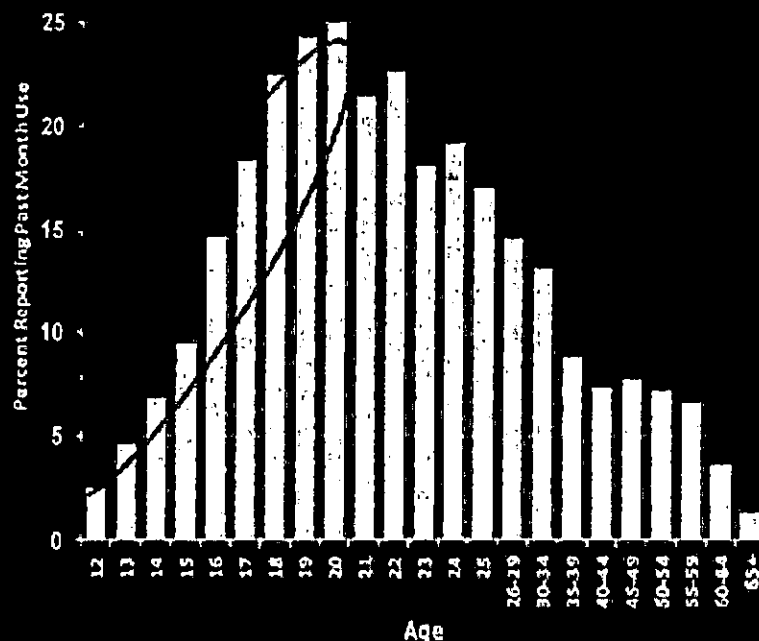
**Program goals** include preventing court involvement, decreasing high-risk behaviors, resolution for victims, preventing residential placement, reducing recidivism, reconnecting youth to community, and promoting resiliency. With successful completion, youth will not have a juvenile conviction on record. The primary goal is to promote growth and lasting behavior change putting youth on a pathway to life success.

**COST SAVINGS:** Juvenile Diversion serves to save NH taxpayers and lawmakers considerable costs, both in the short-term, and long-term. **Formal court processing is 18 times more costly than juvenile diversion**, costing NH roughly \$43,000 per youth while juvenile diversion has an estimated cost of \$2,400 per youth served.

**EFFECTIVENESS:** According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation comparative analysis of recidivism rates cited by the 2013 Dartmouth College "Investigation of Current Practices for Handling Youth in the Criminal Justice System," New Hampshire has a relatively high recidivism rate of 51.7% (McLaughlin, A. et. Al.p.8). **NH Juvenile Court Diversion Network programs have a one-year recidivism rate of 21% compared to 41% for traditional justice system** with an average of 87% successful case closing rates (please see Juvenile Court Diversion In New Hampshire, January 2019).

# Why Prevention?

## Escalation of Drug Use During the Teen Years



Source: SAMHSA 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (September 2013)

According to the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) 9 out of 10 individuals who struggle with addiction began drinking, smoking and using other drugs before they turned 18 years of age.

# If we can prevent youth substance abuse, we can prevent addiction.

[www.cadyinc.org](http://www.cadyinc.org)



**Debra Martone**

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**From:** Saladyga, Jen <jsaladyga@newsbank.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2021 9:53 AM  
**To:** John Reagan; Gary Daniels; Lou D'Allesandro; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** OPPOSE HB130

I am a NH voter and a mother of a high school student. Oppose this bill now. Make smart legislation to help our students, help our property taxes and keep people who live in our beautiful state here. Families cannot afford to live here and giving more money to private schools is not the solution. Let's keep our public schools (that are amazing in our state) as good as they can be by helping out your tax payers and paying a fair share of education costs.

Jen Saladyga

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Yallik <rhodysox@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 11:26 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** "Divisive concepts"

Hello,

I am a resident of Claremont. I just wanted to take a minute to register my extreme opposition to any language in the budget bill, HB2, prohibiting the propagation of "divisive concepts," whatever the hell that's supposed to mean. I've not heard such un-American, authoritarian, enforced-orthodoxy, Big Brother, thought-control nonsense proposed in this country in all my life, and I'm flatly disgusted at Republican attempts to push this deeply unpopular concept, first as a standalone bill and now as a sneaky budget (free)rider. No legislation containing such insidious language should proceed.

You do understand how many ways passage of this cockamamie fascist lunacy will hurt us, right? First, this is a mortal wound to democracy -- not that the Republican seem to care for that anymore. The idea that some discussions must not happen and that some thoughts cannot be entertained is antithetical to the very nature of a nation whose core principle is free speech -- especially free political speech, which was of course the exact kind of speech our founders intended most to protect in the 1st Amendment. No one cares about differences of opinion about whether Bach or Beethoven is the better composer. But insisting on a difference of opinion with your king or monarch was the sort of thing that could get one's head lopped off in the centuries preceding our Declaration of Independence. Differences of political opinion are the most important kinds of dissent to protect -- because without that right, any of us could one day find ourselves running dangerously afoul of political orthodoxy.

This divisive concepts language also clearly targets the education system, with special mention of the public university system. Again, the idea that certain ideas are simply off limits is incompatible with academic freedom, where the freedom to explore freely and support one's ideas with research and documentation is paramount. If you want to turn our universities into a joke, then adoption of this divisive concepts language is precisely the way to do it.

Again, the GOP doesn't seem to care. But in theory, Republicans still care about commerce and business. Our tourism industry suffered because of the pandemic. Counting as we do on regional tourism, and needing that key industry to rebound for our state's economic health, do we really want to become New England's black sheep by instituting hardline authoritarian laws like this? This divisive concepts language will scar our reputation both regionally and nationally. I'm sure you all noted the shellacking Georgia took over its recent voter suppression measures, including the loss of the MLB All Star Game. Do we want to pull similar grief on ourselves by pushing extremist measures?

I know business groups like the SBA have announced their opposition to the implementation of such a measure. Our governor, too, stated his intention to veto the bill when it was a piece of individual legislation. That's not because he's a big ol' liberal softie. It's because the divisive concepts measure is a race to the bottom ... in more ways than I have time to fit in a single email.

You may reach me at this email or 603-391-9178 if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Thanks,  
Sam Killay





**Debra Martone**

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**From:** Margery Phillips <margeryphillips@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 7:11 PM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB1 and HB2

Dear Honorable Senators and Members of the Finance Committee,

I request that you adopt the People's Budget, remove the "divisive concepts" amendment from HB2, and adequately fund public health services and New Hampshire public schools.

It is time to end this craziness and do what's right for the people of New Hampshire.

With respect,

Margery Phillips  
2 Granger Circle  
Hanover, NH 03755



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
LAND TRUST  
COALITION

May 14, 2021

54 Portsmouth Street  
Concord, NH 03301

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Senate President Chuck Morse

Senate Minority Leader Donna Soucy

Senator Gary Daniels, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

**Re: HB 544 and its inclusion in the New Hampshire State Budget**

Dear Governor Sununu, Senate President Morse, Senate Minority Leader Soucy, and Senator Daniels:

As an organization representing 25 non-profit member land trusts that are contractors, grantees, and partners with the State of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Land Trust Coalition (NHLTC) is writing to express our strong opposition to HB 544: An act relative to the propagation of divisive concepts, and its inclusion in the proposed state budget.

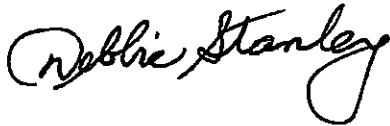
For background, the mission of the NHLTC is to advance land conservation in New Hampshire through professional development, policy advocacy, and education. Comprised of 25 member organizations and other partners, one of our priority goals is to support New Hampshire's land trusts in providing safe, welcoming, and equitable access to the outdoors and its benefits to all people.

To that end, many of our member organizations are currently engaged in critical explorations of how land conservation in New Hampshire has historically not been equitable—how land conservation has sometimes come at the expense of Indigenous Peoples and other marginalized communities, and how, to this day, many people still do not feel safe and welcome to recreate outdoors due to their race, gender, ethnicity, physical ability, and other factors. These inequities are not only unjust, but they are also bad for our communities and the state as a whole, where our high quality of life and celebrated outdoor economy depend on broad access to our diverse natural and recreational resources.

The language of HB 544, if included in the state budget and passed, would unduly restrict New Hampshire's land trusts from undertaking Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training and similar work that, though sometimes uncomfortable, is needed to heal the divisions of the past and chart a better course forward. The legislation is unnecessary and archaic, and it runs counter to New Hampshire's core ethic of protecting and enhancing the ability of our forests, fields, mountains, and waters to deliver benefits—recreational, spiritual, and economic—to everyone.

We urge you to remove HB 544 from the state budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Stanley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Deborah Stanley  
NHLTC President



THE  
NH PROVIDERS  
ASSOCIATION

Representing  
Alcohol & Other Drug Service Providers  
in New Hampshire

Sen. Gary Daniels, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Room 103, State House  
107 North Main Street Concord NH 03301

May 25, 2021

RE: Section 76 of HB 2 - defining and prohibiting the dissemination of certain divisive concepts related to sex and race in state contracts, grants, and training programs.

Dear Senator Daniels and members of the Finance Committee:

The New Hampshire Providers Association (NHPA), representing alcohol and other drug service providers, is writing to urge you and your fellow Senators to **reject** section 76 of HB 2 as passed by the House. The NH Providers Association believes its inclusion in the budget could lead to a cascade of events that will result in needless suffering and preventable deaths for the population we serve in the Granite State.

Currently, there are demonstrated inequities and barriers that impact the ability for underserved populations to access services for mental health and substance use issues. Our members working across the continuum have an ethical responsibility to deliver services competently to every single individual who asks for help, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, age and cultural background. There is publicly funded work being done now to improve the delivery of services to a broader range of individuals; some of these contracts include requirements for trainings for staff on race, equity, and sexual harassment that would be banned by the "divisive concepts" amendment. Including section 76 in the budget jeopardizes both the provision of trainings for staff and critical funding for our members.

This language, if adopted, won't only create countless ethical dilemmas; it would have a massive fiscal and logistical impact on an already precarious industry. It would halt work that is already being done to enhance the growing field of SUD prevention treatment and recovery programs in our state. It would put agencies in the position of deciding whether to use best practices or refuse funding from the State and federal governments. It would also make New Hampshire's prevention and treatment programs ineligible for some funding from SAMHSA, the CARES Act, and the CURES Act. In short, putting the "divisive concepts" language, in any form, into NH law would be far more devastating than how the amendment reads at first glance.

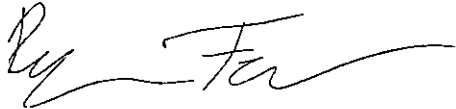
Many agencies and providers within our membership use "braided" funding of multiple streams of revenue. In this growing field, combining State, federal, local, and private dollars is oftentimes the only way some prevention and treatment programs can stay afloat. To pass a budget with this non-germane

item that would either end programs or cut funding to programs would be irresponsible and an affront to those living with, or who have lost their lives to, substance use disorders.

We implore you to remove the "divisive concepts" amendment to HB 2 and pass a State budget that meets the needs of everyone, especially those who most need the support and services our members provide.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ryan Fowler".

Ryan Fowler, Policy Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kerran Vigroux".

Kerran Vigroux, Executive Director

Senator Gary Daniels, Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
State House, Room 103  
107 North Main Street  
Concord NH 03301

May 24, 2021

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of New Hampshire's recovery community organizations, I am writing to you today to express our strong opposition to the inclusion of the divisive concepts language from House Bill 544 in the State Budget. Currently there are 20 state funded, non-profit peer recovery community centers located across the state. We offer a wide array of nonclinical services including recovery planning, crisis navigation, telephone recovery support, peer recovery coaching workforce development, and care coordination for individuals seeking to obtain or maintain recovery from substance use. Our critical services are heavily integrated in NH's system of care offering recovery support to drug courts, probation and parole, county jails and correction, NH Doorways, emergency departments, Recovery Friendly Workplaces, prevention, and treatment programming. If enacted, the prohibition of divisive concepts in HB 1 and HB 2 would restrict agencies like ours, which contract with the state, from conducting required trainings of our staff and subcontractors with guidance that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion; all central components of our mission.

In the recovery community, diversity, equity, and inclusion are critical areas of discussion, and thought. Ignoring or denying our country's history – which includes systemic inequities, intolerance, and barriers created by racism and sexism - is counter to our mission of providing inclusive and culturally competent services to individuals and recovery communities across the state.

Not only would this law undermine our ability to address the indisputable behavioral health impacts of systemic inequities, intolerance, and barriers created by racism and sexism, the ban would also devastate our funding and future operations. Our current financial stability is due to contracts with both the State of New Hampshire and the federal government. The State provides one-third of our funding through general fund dollars and the federal government provides 66% of our funding through the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services. If enacted, this ban on divisive concepts trainings would put all 20 of our recovery centers in violation of our state and federal grant requirements regarding the obligations of grantees to address disparities. For example, the terms of our grants require that "staff will receive training to ensure capacity to provide services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate."

This conflict created by the divisive concepts ban could force recovery centers to forego state and federal funding. If HB 544 is enacted recovery centers would not be able to continue serving one of the most vulnerable populations in New Hampshire. The State would then have to rebid all community recovery center contracts, which is a challenging, expensive, and time-consuming process.

In the past fiscal year alone, our statewide network of recovery centers has provided over 100,000 critical recovery supports services. While much progress has been made to heal our state from the addiction epidemic, we remain in crisis. The state of NH simply cannot afford to lose any critical care providers.

The societal cost of substance use disorder is considerable, and our recent past serves as a reminder for why we cannot lose any ground. In 2017, the lack of prevention, treatment and recovery providers cost

the state \$2.3 billion a year – more than 3 percent of the state’s gross domestic product<sup>1</sup>. The biggest share of the reported losses – roughly \$1.3 billion – came from lost productivity and worker absenteeism driven by alcohol use.

Above all, the human suffering to our state will be immense. The addiction epidemic is a public health crisis that affects all communities. Access to recovery services throughout the state is foundational to creating a healthy New Hampshire. Without the network of 20 recovery community centers New Hampshire will be crippled and the costs will be felt for generations, especially as we continue to confront the escalating behavioral health repercussions of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Please remove the divisive concepts language from the State Budget. If the divisive concepts language is enacted, the 20 recovery community centers will be unable to continue to provide critical recovery support services for NH’s residents. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss these concerns further with you or other lawmakers. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

NH Recovery Community Organizations



John Burns  
Director



Daisy Pierce  
Executive Director



Keith Howard  
Executive Director



Mary Drew  
Chief Executive Officer



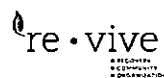
Michelle Lennon  
Executive Director



Bradford Volz  
Executive Director



Sam Lake  
Executive Director



Jessica Parnell  
Executive Director



Caitlin Hilliard  
Center Manager



Mitch Yeaton  
Chief Executive Officer



Stephanie Slayton  
Executive Director



<sup>1</sup> Substance Misuse in New Hampshire: An Update on Costs to the State’s Economy and Initial Impacts of Public Policies to Reduce Them, New Futures, May 2017, <https://new-futures.org/sites/default/files/pages/attachments/2017%20Economic%20Report%20Final.pdf>



## Debra Martone

---

**From:** davholt@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 11:53 AM  
**Subject:** Remove HB544 language from the NH Budget, it is no place for Racist, hateful rhetoric.

I am writing to ask that the racist, hateful language from HB544 be struck from our budget. It is inappropriate for it to be in the budget and it is disgusting and immoral in it's intent to silence open communication around improving race, gender and other issues.

Hate is not a NH Value.

Also the tax cuts and the program funding cuts in this budget will do harm to all of us and erode our ability to care for each other.

We do not have a spending problem in NH we have a revenue problem and these cuts are part of this. The purpose of Government is to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and humanely, especially those most vulnerable.

Thank you

David Holt

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Nicole Ruane <njruane@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:30 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SB 544

Dear Senators of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to beg you to remove SB 544 from the budget. This bill is not only hateful but fundamentally un-American and divorced from reality. Only in an Orwellian-like autocracy are people told that they cannot tell the truth -- about history, about society, and about the world around them -- which is exactly what this bill aims to do. In the "Live Free or Die" state, we should be encouraging freedom of thought and conversation, not shutting it down. Furthermore, discussions of race and gender are fundamental to our existence and identity. How can we address important issues like abortion and healthcare if we cannot critically question the problems and status of gender? How can we improve poverty and violence if we cannot examine racism and white supremacy? Ironically, if you support this bill, you will only be exacerbating the need for discussion of these issues of gender and race as you will be engaging in the worst kind of "identity politics." You will be making the problems of race and gender significantly worse by trying to cover them up with lies and ignorance.

No reasonable person will want to live in a state that encourages ignorance, racism, hatred and misogyny, which is the purpose of this bill; no student will want to attend a university in a state that discourages intellectual inquiry; no company will want to be based in a community that shuts its eyes to reality. If you want to attract prosperous people to this state, you are doing the exact opposite of what is needed. Please help to make New Hampshire a better place, not a worse one. This bill leads towards authoritarianism and thought control. It should have no place in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Nicole J. Ruane

339 Miller Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03801  
603-436-1136

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Rebecca Woitkowski <rwoitkowski@new-futures.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2021 10:46 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; johnreagan111@gmail.com; Bob Giuda; Erin Hennessey; Chuck Morse; Lou D'Allesandro; Cindy Rosenwald; Donna Soucy  
**Cc:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Fund Home Visiting, Community Collaborations, and FRC's - Advocate Stories  
**Attachments:** FRC Storybook Final.pdf

Dear Members of Senate Finance,

I write to urge you to include critical funding for Family Resource Centers, home visiting programs and community collaborations in the budget. Research shows that these types of programs not only prevent and mitigate childhood trauma but enable families to be self-sufficient, increase health outcomes, reduce state cost, and set a strong, healthy foundation for children to thrive. These programs also help leverage additional federal dollars to increase impact in communities across the state. I have included the attached story book which tells how important, effective and vital these programs are to New Hampshire families. If you have any questions or would like to be connected to those who serve families in these programs, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for all you do to support a healthy and bright future for New Hampshire's kids and families.

Rebecca Woitkowski, Esq.

*She/Her/Hers*

Kids Count Policy Coordinator

New Futures Kids Count

100 North Main Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor | Concord, NH

(603) 225-9540 x128

NewFuturesNH | @NewFuturesNH

# ADVOCATE STORIES: STRENGTHENING NH FAMILIES



INVEST IN FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS,  
HOME VISITING TO ENSURE A STRONGER,  
MORE RESILIENT GRANITE STATE.

# WHAT WE CAN DO

**Fund investments in Family Resource Centers, home visiting programs and community collaborations to support and enable all families to thrive. Research shows that these types of programs not only prevent and mitigate childhood trauma but enable families to be self-sufficient, increase health outcomes, reduce state cost, and set a strong, healthy foundation for children to thrive.**

Family Support

Community Connection

Financial Services

## **Family supports are critical now more than ever.**

As a State, we are struggling with multiple crises impacting the health and wellness of our children; the COVID-19 pandemic, substance misuse, mental health, and child abuse and neglect. These situations, which cause toxic stress, can have long-term, negative consequences on the health and well-being of our children and families. Family Resource Centers, and the services they provide, like Medicaid Home Visiting, help to prevent and mitigate childhood trauma and stress.

Children are the future of our state. Primary prevention programs that promote brain development and reduce toxic stress during children's early years are more effective and less costly than repairing issues later in life. For New Hampshire of these program shows a return of \$4 to \$6 for every dollar invested by reducing societal costs associated with poor health, child protection, K-12 special education, grade retention, and criminal justice expenses.

To build on the strength of New Hampshire families, we urge our lawmakers to support Medicaid Home Visiting and fund a robust system of Family Resource Centers, which provide essential support to families at home and in their communities.

# POSITIVE IMPACT ON FAMILIES

I manage the Healthy Families America Program and Comprehensive Family Supports and Services Program, a three-year, evidence-based home visiting model designed to reduce child abuse and neglect for newborns. In 2020, we received 143 referrals but our limited funding only allows us to serve 32 of these families at a time, so we were forced to turn away many in need of our support.

A client of ours, Carrie, was able to enroll in and benefit from our program. When we met Carrie, she was pregnant and had recently lost custody of her two other children due to substance use disorder and homelessness. We began working with her by supporting her in achieving her goals of having a healthy pregnancy and maintaining custody of her newborn. Her enrollment in our program prepared her to regain custody of her other children while working on her recovery. After more than a year of working alongside us, we are so proud that Carrie has regained custody of her children and maintains a healthy home for them with the support of our home visitors.

Our impact on families like Carrie's is great, but the need for our services in Strafford county is greater than what we have the capacity for. I urge our lawmakers to provide Family Resource Centers with more funding in the impending budget. With it, we could develop a home visiting program that supports families long-term and serves all families that look to us for support.

Paula Gyurcsan  
Home Visiting Manager  
Community Action Partnership  
of Strafford County  
Milton



# FOR ALL FAMILIES

As a Home Visitor and Educator of over 20 years, I have had the pleasure of serving families from all backgrounds. With the stress of the pandemic, families who have never financially struggled before found themselves turning to us for support.

Our services support families at home and in their communities and can range from our community backyard farming programs, transportation, parenting lessons, and home visiting services, to free tax preparation programs for seniors. Part of my job is providing depression screeners to the families that I serve particularly those with children. Detecting depression and other mental illnesses in early childhood is paramount to ensuring the wellbeing of their mental and physical health and overall wellbeing.

We do this work because we want to make a difference - we do not do it for the money. We are under-resourced and under-funded and the COVID-19 pandemic has presented countless challenges to how we are able to best reach and serve our community. Family Resource Centers throughout the state have risen to the challenge and have championed creative and innovative approaches to ensure the wellbeing and safety of families.

To ensure access to essential support for families at home and in their communities, I urge our lawmakers to fund Family Resource Centers.

Kelli Tourgee  
Home Visitor & Parent Educator  
The River Center Family Resource Center  
Peterborough





## ESSENTIAL SERVICES

We witness the benefits of primary prevention programs firsthand every day. Critical prevention-based supports we offer serve as a lifeline for many families who may be isolated and face a host of challenges ranging from lack of food to mental health and substance misuse.

Essential programs, such as home visiting, when professionals provide support and education to families in their own homes, can be as simple as another person present to hold their baby while they take a shower or have a few moments alone. It can make all the difference in how a parent is able to cope with the everyday demands of parenting. Kinship support for grandparents and other relative caregivers is another vital service supported by primary prevention service funding. We have witnessed families unravel with the loss of a parent due to substance misuse and admire the courage of grandparents and other relatives who step in to care for a child or children. The experience is often sudden and overwhelming, and families need the help of organizations like ours to navigate the financial, emotional and legal challenges they face.

Current state funding for Family Resource Centers through the facilitating organization has bolstered professional development for staff, allowed for targeted outreach and support for kinship families, and increased organizational capacity in order to serve more families in high-quality, effective programs. We urge lawmakers to continue funding these programs that are critical to the health and well-being of Granite State children and families, the future of our state.

Margaret Nelson  
Executive Director  
The River Center Family  
and Community  
Resource Center  
Peterborough

Melissa Gallagher  
Executive Director  
Grapevine Family and  
Community Resource  
Center  
Antrim



# EFFECTIVE PREVENTION

In New Hampshire, we are struggling with multiple crises, which can cause toxic stress in kids and can have long-term, negative health and wellness consequences. Family support services help reduce negative impacts and set children, and our state, up for success.

A large majority of families in New Hampshire do not have access to the services that mitigate this toxic stress and help our kids develop on track. Family Resource Centers provide a wide range of supports in communities for parents and children, such as parenting education, playgroups, childcare, financial skill-building and job readiness, and referrals to substance use and mental health treatment programs. They are designed to meet specific community needs, and families benefit from their existence.

At our Family Resource Center, like many, we provide access to home visiting services proven to strengthen parenting skills, reduce poverty and child maltreatment, and help reduce the negative long-term consequences of adverse childhood experiences. Our programs also help eliminate the need for services later on and help all families to thrive. Research shows that for every \$1 invested in early childhood, a \$4 to \$6 return on investment is created by reducing the societal costs associated with poor health, child protection, K-12 special education, grade retention, and criminal justice expenses.

Please support a budget that keeps NH healthy and helps us support our children in growing strong.

Erin Pettengill  
Vice President  
Family Resource Center  
at Lakes Region Community  
Services  
Laconia



## STRONG FAMILIES FOR THE LONG RUN

In the past year, like children and parents around the world, the needs of my family have drastically changed in many ways; from the negative financial impacts of job loss to the social-emotional and mental health of my Kindergartner and myself.

I am a former early childhood educator and currently stay at home with my two young daughters. Prior to being connected with the local Family Resource Center, I was unaware of all the services and supports available to my family within our community. The wealth of information and help we were provided as a family has given us comfort and hope during this time, knowing we are seen and cared about by our community.

Not only do these services provide immediate assistance and support for our immediate needs, but I am confident my family can be successful and stay afloat in the long run. I know that I am speaking for all families that utilize their help. With so many pieces in life being uncertain right now, I don't know what our situation will look like once I am able to transition back to work, but I do know that I can rely on my community and that is invaluable. I encourage legislators to consider the critical need to fund Family Resource Centers and programs that foster positive family development especially as we all work to climb out of the hardships of the pandemic.

Krissy Mendez  
Mother  
Nashua

*The wealth of information and help we were provided as a family has given us comfort and hope during this time, knowing we are seen and cared about by our community.*



# CONNECTION

The Family Resource Center of Greater Seacoast Community Health offers a variety of services designed to strengthen and keep families strong.

Two summers ago, a grandmother received a phone call that said she needed to pick up her ten-year-old grandson that day or he would be going into foster care. Not long after, she found her way to our Grandparent Support group. Here she experienced firsthand that talking with others helps promote healing and decreases shame, stigma and painful isolation. We connected her to concrete supports and she had the opportunity to develop knowledge of parenting and child development through a twelve-week, evidence-based parenting program.

Over the past two years, her grandson has had an incredible transformation. He used to be behind in school, would hoard food, was constantly worried and hyper-focused on his surroundings but is now healthy, happy and thriving. Our Family Resource Center programs are helping decrease the risk that her grandson will struggle with the negative health and social consequences of childhood adversity.

The evidence is solid and has proven that the positive impact of helping parents today changes the health and well-being of future generations. This is why I strongly advocate that lawmakers fully fund Family Resource Centers.

To continue to serve NH families, we need the financial resources to make this happen. Family Resource Centers make a difference in our communities.

Patrice Baker  
Greater Seacoast Community Health  
Portsmouth





## LIFE-ALTERING SUPPORTS

Two summers ago, I was told that I needed to pick up my 10-year-old grandson that day or he would be going into foster care. With the connections and concrete supports offered to me at the Family Resource Center of Greater Seacoast Community Health's Grandparent Support group, I received life-altering support for my grandson and myself.

I connected with the other grandparents in the support group and established a stronger network of social connections. Hearing about how others navigated the same situation gave me reassurance that I could do it too. Knowing that I was not alone really helped me.

I was connected to concrete supports, including financial support for an upgrade to our smoke detector system (required for us to be "foster parents"), back-to-school supplies, and a new bike for my growing grandson. When we first came to the group, he was always worried and would not go anywhere alone. Now he will go anywhere with his bike, he has a sense of freedom and confidence.

I learned how to get help when I need it and now we are able to stay strong and healthy, even during difficult times. I also learned a lot about myself in the parenting classes - how I parented my kid and how I was parented. I learned about mindfulness and breathing—which are two very important things in my life now. I learned about paying attention to my grandson, and the importance of listening to him and talking with him about his feelings. From all of this, we have a very open, honest relationship.

My grandson is healthy, happy and thriving—he has lots of friends, loves school and has won awards for his achievements, and he really wants to go to college.

Family Resource Centers make a difference.

Robin  
Grandmother  
Seabrook



## THE FUTURE OF NH

We cannot expect better outcomes for children and families when we continue to cut funding. Any connections and experiences that are missed during those first 3 years of life can be made up, but now we are doing catch-up work that will require more intensive and costly support.

Due to systemic racism, a growing number of our population, specifically young children growing up in minority and low-income neighborhoods, do not have access to the resources they need. While 10% of all children live in poverty, that percentage jumps to 29% when looking at African American and Latinx children in Hillsborough County. If the parents and caregivers of these children don't have the basic skills and resources to better themselves, how can we expect them to be able to raise strong and resilient children? All of the largest societal issues we see plaguing our cities today: crime, addiction, suicide, mental illness; could be easily and effectively combatted with investment in early childhood interventions.

Family Resource Centers are a necessity to our communities - they provide timely help and long-lasting support for families that have been proven to make a difference. As a state, we need to make investments in Family Resource Centers right now, it is the most cost-effective way for us to assist the parents, children, educators, and ultimately the workforce of today and the future.

Jessica Hägg  
Intern at United Way of Greater Nashua  
SMART Start Coalition  
Rivier University

# A STURDY FOUNDATION

At The Upper Room, A Family Resource Center in Derry NH, serving southern NH, we have found that many families are extremely fragile at this time. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, parental incarceration, and loss due to substance misuse, families are requiring greater levels of care to overcome trauma and gain resiliency skills. When we work together with them, their current natural supports and our trained staff, we can develop a strong plan, including; stabilization services, access to support and resources, and follow along care through groups and case management support.


Children are the future of our state, we must set a sturdy foundation to nurture lifelong health and learning. Primary prevention programs that promote brain development and reduce toxic stress during children's early years are more effective and less costly than repairing issues later in life. Our services help families thrive and reduce or eliminate the need for services later on that appear in much greater amounts dispersed among school budgets, town budgets, mental health system, and the court system.

To build on the strength of New Hampshire families, I urge our lawmakers to fund a robust system of family resource centers, which provide essential support to families at home and in their communities.

Brenda Guggisberg  
Executive Director  
The Upper Room  
Derry



# STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES



As the Executive Director of TLC Family Resource Center in Claremont and parent of three, I am acutely aware we cannot simply state our goal is for all families to be self-sufficient. Self-sufficiency implies there are enough living-wage jobs, as well as accessible and affordable health care options, childcare, and housing for everyone. These basic needs are sometimes impossible to secure, and for that reason, Family Resource Centers across the state are not questing for self-sufficiency. Rather, we are looking to weave together supports in ways that strengthen us individually and as a community.

We provide concrete support to families, including financial assistance for rent, gas, food, childcare. Further, our programs help to build protective factors that support optimal development and prevent adverse childhood experiences. Our children are the future of our state and our community supports are helping ensure families have a strong foundation for lifelong health and learning.

As we work on improving outcomes for children and families, one of Family Resource Center's biggest challenges is sustainable funding. This has forced us to reconsider how we move forward: We have already pulled job openings and discussed what it will be like to turn away families in need of our critical support. With stable state investment, we can provide evidence-based services, home visiting, and concrete resources and supports that strengthen families and ensure children have opportunities to grow and thrive in a healthy environment.

Stephanie Slayton  
Executive Director  
TLC Family Resource Center  
Claremont

# OUR ASK TO LAWMAKERS

**Please support a State Budget that funds investments in Family Resource Centers, home visiting programs and community collaborations to support and enable all families to thrive.**

**Research shows that these types of programs not only prevent and mitigate childhood trauma but enable families to be self-sufficient, increase health outcomes, reduce state cost, and set a strong, healthy foundation for children to thrive.**



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Mary Wilke <wilke.mary@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2021 11:01 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Supplement to my oral testimony against adding SB130 to the budget

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

### **I hope you would agree that government spending should be done prudently.**

Even if you fully support the idea of Education Freedom Accounts, it would be irresponsible to include SB130 in the budget without addressing and fixing the many flaws in the bill. Here is a sample:

1. Although the bill says otherwise, the IRS will consider EFAs to be **taxable income** for homeschooling parents, who may also find that the income boost makes them ineligible for benefits tied to income.
2. Nothing in the bill prevents employees of the scholarship organization or their family members from setting up their own for-profit tutoring service or therapy center, steering parents to those providers, and paying them with our taxpayer dollars.
3. Nothing requires any employee of the scholarship organization to have any expertise in education, yet they'll be deciding whether a given service is appropriate and should be reimbursed. And by paying the scholarship organization on commission, the bill incentivizes the scholarship organization to err on the side of approving payments to service providers by paying the organization on commission.
4. The bill grants the scholarship organization, which will handle millions of dollars of public funds, immunity from legal liability. This means that even as the bill leaves open opportunities for self-dealing, it relieves the organization from the usual obligation to use reasonable care in its dealings.
5. The private nonprofit and for-profit educational service providers that would be paid with our money are not required to have any particular credentials, licenses or certifications *or even to conduct criminal background checks on employees who would be working with children.*
6. The LBA has not issued a detailed fiscal analysis of the impact of this bill.
7. The Department of Education has made some fiscal predictions that defy belief. For instance, they projected that in the first two years of implementation of the bill only 106 of the more than 15,000 students currently attending private school would apply for the free money offered to them under SB130 to use toward tuition. At a minimum the DOE's projections must be looked at carefully, not accepted at face value.
8. A child could take an EFA but still attend public school for up to 50% of each week for the rest of her school life. If the child had special needs, the public school would remain responsible for addressing all of these special needs, without any adequacy money from the state. Meanwhile, the private school receiving the adequacy funds would have no obligation to provide special ed services.
9. SB 130 would send public money to private schools that are exempt from most of the academic standards and accountability measures that the legislature appears to think are important for public schools. Why the double standard?

10. The bill authorizes the scholarship organization to fund "additional EFAs" using private donations. No guidance is given for how "additional EFAs" could be awarded or used. Meanwhile, this is another opportunity for self-dealing. A tutor could give \$10,000 to the scholarship organization to be used for EFAs and could claim a tax deduction for the charitable gift. The scholarship organization could take \$1,000 of that amount in fees and then make a point of directing parents of students with EFAs to that particular tutor for services.

This bill is sloppy and irresponsible. Please don't put it in the budget.

Thank you,  
Mary Wilke  
Concord, NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** mald40@tds.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 22, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** Debra Martone  
**Subject:** SB544

Dear Senator Martone, I am writing to urge you to vote to remove SB544 Divisive Content language from the NH Budget.

The "Divisive Concepts" amendment to budget bill HB 2 would prevent necessary conversations and training on racial and gender justice, and would silence the voices and experiences of those most impacted by injustices, in our New Hampshire schools and state agencies. Whether it is access to wealth in the form of loans, being targeted by police, or access to healthcare, the systems we have created in this state and this country make it harder for people of color, and we need to name that in order to move forward. The "Divisive Concepts" budget amendment aims to deny reality, divide our communities, and suppress the dialogue that would advance us toward the future we all seek.

By understanding the origins of systemic racism and sexism and the ways in which they continue to harm all of us, we can continue moving toward a society, here in New Hampshire and beyond, in which all of us can live with freedom and dignity as full participants in a multiracial democracy. To do so, we must stop proposals that would silence conversation and enable racist and sexist ideas and systems to persist. Furthermore, an effort to legislate educational content in public schools amounts to censorship and government over reach and should not be tolerated. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Michelle Donovan, Farmington, NH.

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Michael J. Cohen <michael@mjchealthsolutions.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 22, 2021 1:46 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Donna Soucy; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** For the health of NH older adults: Support these initiatives in your State Budget

Honorable Senators,

As an older adult, the former Executive Director of NAMI NH and as a volunteer Board Member serving on a number of non-profits working in the human services and health sectors I have learned how important it is to keep our older adult population healthy and at home. These budget requests below would help improve the quality of life for our older adult population. In addition these services add positively to our economy and in the long run reduce long-term medical costs and family burden. I urge you to support these initiatives:

- **The Governor's budget request to include critical increases in three (3) Medicaid services under the Choices for Independence Waiver (CFI): personal care, homemaker, and case management.**
- **Help fill the gap in Adult Medical Day services by adding \$4.0 million to the state budget. This investment of state dollars over the biennium is a cost-effective way to keep older adults in their community longer. It also allows caregivers to continue working, contributing to their families and the local economy while their loved one is safe.**
- **Restore the Governor's \$1.5 million for senior centers to support services to combat struggles with mental health and social isolation.**

Thank you for your serious consideration and support.  
Sincerely,

Michael J. Cohen  
4 Upper Flanders Rd  
Amherst NH 03031  
604-496-1657  
[michael@mjchealthsolutions.com](mailto:michael@mjchealthsolutions.com)



May 25, 2021

Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
Office of the Governor  
State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Senate President Morse  
Office of the Senate President  
State House  
107 North Main Street, Room 302  
Concord, NH 03301

*Sent via electronic means only*

Re: State Aid Grants Affected by COVID-19 Financial Shortfall

Dear Governor Sununu and Senate President Morse:

We are writing to urge that final approval for funding be provided for the 11 State Aid Grant (SAG) projects that were substantially complete before December 31, 2019, but were held back from final approval due to early financial budget shortfalls created by the pandemic.

We are very grateful to the Senate for restoring SAG funding in the proposed state budget for previously approved wastewater projects; our understanding is that this \$15.6 million will come from fiscal year 2021 budget surplus amounts. **However, there are currently 11 wastewater projects which were substantially complete before December 31, 2019 (the moratorium date in HB 2) that have not received final approval for funding.** These projects were scheduled to go before the Governor and Executive Council for final approval in fiscal years 2020-21, but they were held back due to the concerns about the financial impacts that were occurring at that time from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as you know, state revenues have surpassed expectations, and there currently exists a surplus balance in the fiscal year 2021 SAG budget for the first-year grant payments for these projects. In light of the very positive return of the state's revenues, there is an opportunity to now fully fund these projects, which municipalities relied upon in adopting their current budgets. These 11 projects were included in the Agency's fiscal year 2022 and 2023 "additional prioritized needs" budget request: \$2,051,248 for 2022 and \$1,524,115 for 2023.

In the event that these projects are not brought forward to the Governor & Executive Council before the end of the current fiscal year, NHMA again registers its strong support for SB 127 (Part VIII), which includes the SAG funds in fiscal year 2022 and 2023 for projects that have met all statutory requirements, along with the funding for the additional 110 projects which have been identified by the Department of Environmental Services as eligible for state aid grants. We remain hopeful the Senate will include SB 127 in its state budget process.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

25 Triangle Park Drive • Concord, NH 03301 • Tel: 603.224.7447 • NH Toll Free: 800.852.3358

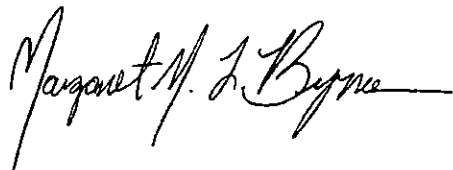
NHMAinfo@nhmunicipal.org • governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org • legalinquiries@nhmunicipal.org

www.nhmunicipal.org

We urge the state not to overlook these 11 projects and to ensure that they can move forward for the funding approval they qualified for before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Margaret M.L. Byrnes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Margaret M.L. Byrnes  
Executive Director

Cc: Matthew Mailloux  
Senate Finance Committee Members

Kimby Wade  
Gilford, NH  
KWade@ppnh.org

Greetings to the member of the Finance Committee,

I write to strongly urge you to support Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs within the NH state budget. Now, more than ever, it is vital that we educate and encourage people to be smokefree. Nicotine use has a devastating impact on the financial and physical wellbeing of Granite Staters. Prevention efforts and cessation outreach are crucial to ensuring youth and young adults never start using tobacco products and that those currently using have access to proven programs and reliable resources to end their dependence on nicotine completely.

According to the CDC, "evidence-based, statewide tobacco control programs that are comprehensive, sustained, and accountable have been shown to reduce the number of people who smoke, as well as tobacco-related diseases and deaths. For every dollar spent on tobacco prevention, states can reduce tobacco-related health care expenditures and hospitalizations by up to \$55. The longer and more states invest, the larger the reductions in youth and adult smoking" (source: <http://bit.ly/tobaccoCDC>).

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the nation, with non-smokers typically outliving smokers by a decade. "Currently, more than 16 million Americans live with a disease caused by smoking. Smoking damages nearly every organ and is associated with heart disease, stroke, respiratory diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, and multiple types of cancer" (source: <http://bit.ly/ahr2020tobacco>).

Smoking impacts the health of all Granite Staters. America's Health Ranking states, "People who do not smoke are also affected by smoking. Exposure to secondhand smoke is estimated to cause 41,000 deaths among U.S. adults every year. Smoking is estimated to cost the United States between \$132.5 and \$175.9 billion for medical expenses as well as \$151 billion in lost productivity due to premature death every year. In recent years, there has been an increase in popularity of e-cigarettes, especially among youth. Several lung injuries associated with e-cigarette use have been reported. Many contain nicotine and other cancer-causing chemicals" (source: <http://bit.ly/ahr2020tobacco>).

By including funding for Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs within the NH state budget, legislators will be showing Granite Staters that they wish to secure a future that is smokefree and without dependency on tobacco in any of its forms or usage. They would also be ensuring the long-term health and wellbeing of the state as fewer and fewer NH residents will need to endure mounting medical and healthcare costs while experiencing greater vitality and longevity in their lives by being smokefree. Additionally, businesses would have a healthier workforce and increased productivity. Legislators have the ability to make this an actuality in NH's future by making the investment to prevention today. Thank you for your time and consideration, I wish you a good day.

Best regards,  
Kimby Wade  
Director of Prevention Strategies  
Partnership for Public Health

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Elsa Worth <elsa@stjameskeene.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 10:13 AM  
**To:** Jay Kahn; Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Donna Soucy; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Please remove "Divisive Concepts" from State budget

Dear Senator Kahn and the members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I write to strongly urge the Senate to remove the "Divisive Concepts" bill from the state budget. It is an affront to our guarantee of free speech, and names as divisive topics that must be faced opening and discussed honestly in order to maintain and sustain a more just society.

It is deeply unfortunate that this unconstitutional bill was attached to our state's budget this year and I urge the senate to remove it as they do their important budgetary work.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Elsa Worth, Rector  
St. James Episcopal Church  
44 West Street  
Keene, NH 03431  
603-352-1019  
cell: 203-984-2906

blog: [https://us-east-](https://us-east-2.protection.sophos.com?d=stjameskeene.com&u=d3d3LnN0amFtZXNrZWVuZS5jb20vcmlvZDdXJuaW5nYW5kcmVzdC8=&i=NWRIZTQxMzMzYjRhNTgwZDk2OTJjZGRj&t=RmhaemJJR3dVRW84RVRESTFmRVBHU9BNjJYeWdUT0podElQSkxuMms0bz0=&h=4ea97810850b4377b51579daa02543e1)

[2.protection.sophos.com?d=stjameskeene.com&u=d3d3LnN0amFtZXNrZWVuZS5jb20vcmlvZDdXJuaW5nYW5kcmVzdC8=&i=NWRIZTQxMzMzYjRhNTgwZDk2OTJjZGRj&t=RmhaemJJR3dVRW84RVRESTFmRVBHU9BNjJYeWdUT0podElQSkxuMms0bz0=&h=4ea97810850b4377b51579daa02543e1](https://us-east-2.protection.sophos.com?d=stjameskeene.com&u=d3d3LnN0amFtZXNrZWVuZS5jb20vcmlvZDdXJuaW5nYW5kcmVzdC8=&i=NWRIZTQxMzMzYjRhNTgwZDk2OTJjZGRj&t=RmhaemJJR3dVRW84RVRESTFmRVBHU9BNjJYeWdUT0podElQSkxuMms0bz0=&h=4ea97810850b4377b51579daa02543e1)



## Debra Martone

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**From:** Wendy Hunt <whunt@nashuachamber.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 11:40 AM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Donna Soucy; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce re: "divisive concepts" language included in HB 2.  
**Importance:** High

Dear Senator Daniels and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of hundreds of NH businesses and nonprofits which employ nearly 58,000 NH residents. The Chamber has heard from members of both sectors, who are opposed to the "divisive concepts" bill (HB 544), which has now been included in the budget, despite being non-budget related legislation.

On behalf of these businesses and nonprofits, the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes the "divisive concepts" language included in HB 2. This legislation would create significant risk and uncertainty for any business that has a contract with – or is a subcontractor for – the State of New Hampshire.

The language would prohibit the State from contracting with private businesses and nonprofits which train their associates about certain "divisive concepts" related to race. If this becomes law, the state would be obligated to investigate complaints about a contractor's training programs which could result in a contract being nullified. The legislation could also prohibit future business between the State and the contractor.

We believe that mandating what a private business can and cannot discuss with its employees is an unacceptable overreach of government authority. Issues relating to diversity and inclusion are important to our member businesses and nonprofits. Training and open discussion about these matters are critical elements of workplace culture.

Passage of this legislation would send a chilling message to businesses and prospective employees at a time of intense competition for talent.

Most if not all nonprofits engage extensively with training and education as well as specific policies to create an environment which embraces fully diversity, equity, and inclusion. These same nonprofits also contract heavily with the State of New Hampshire, as well as the Federal Government and local municipalities. Without very clear and specific language on what is and is not allowed, there is a great concern that many nonprofits might find themselves unwilling or unable to conduct their work.

We encourage lawmakers to think openly about the potential consequences of this legislation and the impact it will have on New Hampshire's reputation as a business-friendly destination.

Please feel free to reach out to me at the Chamber.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Hunt, President & CEO  
Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce  
60 Main Street, Suite 200

Nashua, NH 03060  
603.881.8333  
whunt@nashuachamber.com

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Chrisinda Lynch <cmmelynch@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 4:23 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Donna Soucy; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** Divisive Concepts Amendment (HB 544)

Dear Senators,

I urge you to vote to remove the amendment to the state budget which adds language from HB 544, known as the divisive concepts bill, to the budget.

Divisive concepts legislation simply does not belong anywhere in the NH budget proposal. HB 544 should remain as a stand alone bill which is required to go through the normal legislative process.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Chrisinda M. Lynch  
Concord, NH

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Barbara D. Reed <bdreed74@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 10:40 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Donna Soucy; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** HB 544

I have been a NH resident for 52 years, have been a voter for 49 years, and a property taxpayer for 20 years. This bill does not belong in a Budget bill. 1. As far as I understand, it is not related to finance. 2. This bill acts as a gag order to prevent any education about implicit/complicit bias and how it can damage relationships, work environments, and society. Racism DOES exist and people need to learn about it's impact on people and society as a whole; the discussion is not about telling people that they are bad or are better than anyone else. 3. This is very possibly unconstitutional. Barbara D. Reed North Swanzey NH

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Barbara D. Reed <bdreed74@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 10:53 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Donna Soucy; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** State Budget

The Budget as proposed is unfair to the people of NH. By cutting positions and the funding for Health and Human Services, peoples' health will be harmed. By cutting public school funding and diverting public education moneys to private/religious schools and to home schoolers at the same time, there will be damage done to public schools, the futures of students, and could well drive students away from NH in the long run. In addition it will drive up property taxes, especially hurting those on fixed incomes and poor towns. SB 61 is damaging to workers' rights and benefits big business, rather than the middle/lower class people, who do need help/support. Barbara D. Reed North Swanzey NH

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Emma Ryan <21eryan@derryfield.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 9:29 AM  
**To:** Erin Hennessey; Cindy Rosenwald; Bob Giuda; Chuck Morse; Lou D'Allesandro; John Reagan; Gary Daniels; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** I'm a NH Constituent, Please Oppose the "Divisive Concepts" Amendment

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I'm a resident of New Hampshire and I am urging you to please support a NH People's Budget and oppose the "Divisive Concepts" Amendment. The HB 544 language prohibits implicit bias training and an understanding of systemic racism and sexism.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. We need a budget that works for the people of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Emma Ryan  
Bedford, NH 03110



Senator Gary Daniels, Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
State House, Room 103  
107 North Main Street  
Concord NH 03301

May 25, 2021

Dear Chairman Daniels and Honorable Members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of Families in Transition, I am writing to you today to express our strong opposition to the inclusion of the divisive concept's language from House Bill 544 in the State Budget. Families in Transition is a non-profit providing vital services, housing, and treatment to the most vulnerable citizens in our state. Specifically, the Willows Treatment Center in Manchester offers recovery housing for individuals and mothers reunifying with their children, as well as Intensive Outpatient Programming and Outpatient Services to anyone struggling with a substance use disorder. In the past fiscal year alone, the Families in Transition Willows Treatment Center conducted 567 client assessments to support the access to substance use treatment in our community.

Families in Transition is appreciative of the braided funding received for our Willows Substance Use Treatment Center through our State of NH Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services state contract which is funded by 75% federal funds, including the State Opioid Response Grant and the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. These federal funding sources have specific requirements, managed through the state contracts, for our programs to provide culturally competent care and client-centered treatment to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in its treatment delivery. If enacted, the prohibition of divisive concepts in HB 2 would restrict agencies like ours, which contract with the state, from conducting required trainings of our staff with guidance that promotes diversity, equity and inclusion, all central tenants of our mission and programs.

This law would undermine our ability to address the indisputable behavioral health impacts of systemic inequities, intolerance, and barriers created by racism and sexism and it would also devastate our funding and future operation. Our hard won financial stability is due to contracts with both the State of New Hampshire and the federal government. With the State providing a quarter of our funding through general fund and Governor Commission Alcohol Fund dollars, the 75% federally funded portion of the programming would be at significant financial risk if we were not able to comply with its requirements. If enacted, this ban on divisive concepts trainings would put all five of our treatment services and housing in violation of federal grant requirements regarding the obligations of grantees to address disparities. For example, the terms of one of our federal grants require that "Staff will receive training to ensure capacity to provide services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate."

This conflict created by the divisive concepts ban could force treatment centers such as Families in Transition to forego state funding, but with this significant cut to services would eliminate programming and resources for those with substance use disorders in New Hampshire. With the State continuing to be challenged by an insufficient capacity to meet the needs of all our citizens who have a substance use disorder, it is imperative that we preserve all current treatment programs in the state. Treatment centers losing financial resources because of the prohibition of divisive concepts would move the state significantly backwards in its efforts to addressing substance use disorders in this crisis times. While



much progress has been made to heal our state, we are still in enduring an addiction crisis and we simply cannot afford to lose any critical care providers.

Substance use disorders have a significant impact on the citizens, businesses, and communities across our state. Above all, the human suffering to our state will be immense. The addiction epidemic is a public health crisis that affects all communities. Access to prevention, treatment and recovery services throughout the state is foundational to creating a healthy and thriving New Hampshire. Without the quality treatment centers in our state providing the culturally responsive and evidenced based practices to those with substance use disorders, especially as we see the heightened impact on our community members with substance use disorders because of the ongoing repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, New Hampshire will be crippled, and the costs will be felt for generations.

Improving equitable access to treatment and culturally responsive care to those we serve is why treatment centers like the Families in Transition Willows Treatment Center exists. For all the reasons outlined in this letter and more, we respectfully request that Section 330 be removed from HB 2.

We are grateful for the hard work of our NH Legislators and their staff throughout this session and for the opportunity you have provided to participate in the Senate hearings remotely. We look forward to working together to strengthen our prevention, treatment and recovery system as move forward in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Savard, LICSW". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephanie Savard, LICSW

Chief External Relations Officer





**First Congregational Church of  
Wilmot  
United Church of Christ**

P. O. Box 204 • Wilmot, NH 03287  
603.526.7715  
wilmotucc.org

Rev. Sara Marean, Pastor

May 19, 2021

Chairperson, Senate Finance Committee

We the undersigned, members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Wilmot, UCC, are writing in strong opposition to HB544, now incorporated into the budget trailer HB2. This bill would add language to state law that prohibits state agencies, public K-12 schools, public colleges and universities, and state contractors from teaching about certain “divisive concepts” like the existence of systemic racism or sexism, unconscious bias, and the idea that society in New Hampshire or the United States is fundamentally racist or sexist.

Our country seems to be at a turning point where frank discussions about our history of racial injustice and acknowledgment of present systemic racism and sexism are at least possible. If we desire equal justice for all, discussions unfettered by legal censorship will move us as a society in that direction. We need to be free to critically analyze the world around us and learn the ways that sexism and racism are interwoven into our culture, so that as a community we can work together to end the cycles of these injustices.

Please remove the language of HB544 from HB2.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Sara Marean, Pastor, First Congregational Church of Wilmot, UCC*

*Robin Albing*

*Nancy Allenby*

*Steve Allenby*

*Bethany Balford*  
*James Bednar*  
*Don Castle*  
*Daljit Clark*  
*Ronald S. Clark*  
*Paul M. Currier*  
*Rev. Dr. Nancy A. De Vries*  
*Darin R. Elliott*  
*Carol S. Foss*  
*Charles L. Foss*  
*Paul J. Fenton Jr.*  
*Julianne Gachelin*  
*Annedore Hasenfuss*  
*Hardy Hasenfuss*  
*John E. Heiden*  
*Martha H. Hopkins*  
*Janet Howe*  
*Kristin Lizotte*  
*Allan MacDonald*  
*Marie MacDonald*  
*Rev. Eric Marean*  
*Jane S. Norman*  
*Lisa M. Partridge*  
*Donna Mae Reade*  
*Bonita Betters-Reed*  
*Gary E. Reed*  
*Kristina Tabor-Hall*  
*Art Urie*  
*Robin Walkup*  
*Paul T Wentworth*  
*Michiko Yamaguchi*

## Debra Martone

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**From:** Marsha Feder <marshafeder@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 1:56 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Donna Soucy; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** "Divisive Concepts"

Dear Senators,

I am writing to you in opposition of the budget provision that prohibits teaching about racism and other forms of discrimination. How will we improve this state and this country without facing the problems of the past? It is wrong to limit the ability of schools and other institutions to work for a better future for all.

I hope you will eliminate this from the budget.

Thank you

Marsha Feder

Hollis

**Debra Martone**

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**From:** Melissa Hinebauch <mmhinebauch@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 11:47 PM  
**To:** Gary Daniels; John Reagan; Lou D'Allesandro; Chuck Morse; Bob Giuda; Cindy Rosenwald; Erin Hennessey; Debra Martone  
**Cc:** M H  
**Subject:** Vote NO to the Divisive Concepts amendment

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Vote NO on the Divisive Concepts amendment.

Have you talked with your constituents? Please talk with some **professors** at UNH, Keene State, and Plymouth State. Talk with some **teachers at your local middle school**. Talk with people who **host presidential debates** in our state like St. Anselm and Dartmouth College. Do you actually understand the implications of this bill?

You must vote NO on the Bradley Amendment because it is still a clear attempt at 1) government over-reach 2) thought policing 3) protecting racists and sexists in the state 4) not telling the truth.

I am astounded you are even entertaining **this amendment about censorship**.

Sincerely,

Mel Hinebauch  
Concord, NH 03301

# Voting Sheets

# Senate Finance Committee

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bill # HB2-FN-A-L

Hearing date: 05/04/21

Executive session date: 05/28/21

Motion of: MOVE AMDMT # 17995

VOTE: 5-2 *Soucy Rosenwald*

|                                                    |                                                    |                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Made by</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>    | <u>Seconded</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>   | <u>Reported</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <u>Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/>    | <u>by Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>by Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>BRADLEY</i> Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>      | <i>BRADLEY</i> Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>      | <i>BRADLEY</i> Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>      |
| Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>                 | Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>                 | Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>                 |
| <i>Soucy</i> D'Attesandro <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Soucy</i> D'Attesandro <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Soucy</i> D'Attesandro <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Morse <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>          | Morse <input type="checkbox"/>                     | Morse <input type="checkbox"/>                     |
| Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>                 | Hennessey <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>      | Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>                 |

Motion of: OTP/A

VOTE: 5-2 *Soucy Rosenwald*

|                                                    |                                                    |                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Made by</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>    | <u>Seconded</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>   | <u>Reported</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <u>Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/>    | <u>by Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>by Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>BRADLEY</i> Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>      | <i>BRADLEY</i> Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>      | <i>BRADLEY</i> Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>      |
| Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>                 | Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>                 | Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>                 |
| <i>Soucy</i> D'Attesandro <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Soucy</i> D'Attesandro <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Soucy</i> D'Attesandro <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Morse <input type="checkbox"/>                     | Morse <input type="checkbox"/>                     | Morse <input type="checkbox"/>                     |
| Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>                 | Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>                 | Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>                 |

| <u>Committee Member</u>           | <u>Present</u>                      | <u>Yes</u>                          | <u>No</u>                           | <u>Reported out by</u>              |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Senator Daniels, Chairman         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Senator Reagan, Vice-Chair        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Senator Giuda <i>BRADLEY</i>      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Senator Hennessey                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Senator Rosenwald                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Senator Morse                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Senator D'Attesandro <i>Soucy</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

Amendments: Split the Question 5-2 vote  
Interest of Dividends 4-7  
Rule 625 - Bradley - abstain

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

# Committee Report





**Docket of HB2****Bill Title:** relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.*Official Docket of HB2.:*

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Body</b> | <b>Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3/2/2021    | H           | <b>Introduced</b> (in recess of) 02/25/2021 and referred to Finance <b>HJ 4 P. 48</b>                                                                                                                               |
| 3/8/2021    | H           | Division III Work Session: 03/09/2021 12:00 pm Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543">https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543</a> |
| 3/9/2021    | H           | Division III Work Session: 03/12/2021 12:00 pm Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543">https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543</a> |
| 3/12/2021   | H           | Division III Work Session: 03/15/2021 10:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543">https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543</a> |
| 3/10/2021   | H           | Division I Work Session: 03/16/2021 09:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/94444579237">https://www.zoom.us/j/94444579237</a>   |
| 3/10/2021   | H           | Division II Work Session: 03/16/2021 10:30 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480">https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480</a>  |
| 3/8/2021    | H           | Division III Work Session: 03/16/2021 10:30 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543">https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543</a> |
| 3/16/2021   | H           | Public Hearing: 03/16/2021 01:00 pm Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/92166004660">https://www.zoom.us/j/92166004660</a>            |
| 3/12/2021   | H           | Division II Work Session: 03/17/2021 10:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480">https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480</a>  |
| 3/11/2021   | H           | Division III Work Session: 03/18/2021 09:30 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543">https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543</a> |
| 3/12/2021   | H           | Division II Work Session: 03/18/2021 10:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480">https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480</a>  |
| 3/11/2021   | H           | Division III Work Session: 03/19/2021 09:30 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543">https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543</a> |
| 3/17/2021   | H           | Division II Work Session: 03/22/2021 10:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480">https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480</a>  |
| 3/17/2021   | H           | Division III Work Session: 03/22/2021 10:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543">https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543</a> |
| 3/17/2021   | H           | Division II Work Session: 03/23/2021 10:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480">https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480</a>  |
| 3/15/2021   | H           | Division I Work Session: 03/23/2021 10:30 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar:<br><a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/94444579237">https://www.zoom.us/j/94444579237</a>   |

|           |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3/17/2021 | H | Division II Work Session: 03/24/2021 10:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: <a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480">https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480</a>                |
| 3/17/2021 | H | ==CANCELLED== Division III Work Session: 03/25/2021 09:30 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: <a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543">https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543</a> |
| 3/17/2021 | H | Division II Work Session: 03/25/2021 10:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: <a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480">https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480</a>                |
| 3/17/2021 | H | ==CANCELLED== Division III Work Session: 03/26/2021 09:30 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: <a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543">https://www.zoom.us/j/93701004543</a> |
| 3/17/2021 | H | ==CANCELLED== Division II Work Session: 03/26/2021 10:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: <a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480">https://www.zoom.us/j/96814127480</a>  |
| 3/25/2021 | H | Executive Session: 03/29/2021 10:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: <a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/92166004660">https://www.zoom.us/j/92166004660</a>                       |
| 3/25/2021 | H | ==CANCELLED== Executive Session: 03/30/2021 09:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: <a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/92166004660">https://www.zoom.us/j/92166004660</a>         |
| 3/25/2021 | H | ==TIME CHANGE== Executive Session: 03/31/2021 10:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: <a href="https://www.zoom.us/j/92166004660">https://www.zoom.us/j/92166004660</a>       |
| 4/1/2021  | H | Majority Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment <b>#2021-1059h</b> (Vote 12-9; RC) <b>HC 18</b> P. 30                                                                                                                  |
| 4/1/2021  | H | Minority Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 4/7/2021  | H | Amendment <b>#2021-1059h</b> : AA <b>RC</b> 204-178 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 87                                                                                                                                               |
| 4/7/2021  | H | FLAM <b>#2021-1064h</b> (Reps. Walz, Hatch): AF <b>RC</b> 175-203 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 89                                                                                                                                 |
| 4/7/2021  | H | FLAM <b>#2021-1065h</b> (): AF <b>RC</b> 175-206 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 92                                                                                                                                                  |
| 4/7/2021  | H | FLAM <b>#2021-1068h</b> (Reps. Rogers, Nordgren, Wallner): AF <b>RC</b> 181-199 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 94                                                                                                                   |
| 4/7/2021  | H | FLAM <b>#2021-1071h</b> (Rep. McWilliams): AF <b>RC</b> 177-206 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 96                                                                                                                                   |
| 4/7/2021  | H | FLAM <b>#2021-1073h</b> (Rep. Heath): AF <b>RC</b> 174-206 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 99                                                                                                                                        |
| 4/7/2021  | H | FLAM <b>#2021-1062h</b> (Reps. Heath, K. Murray): AF <b>RC</b> 178-203 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 101                                                                                                                           |
| 4/7/2021  | H | FLAM <b>#2021-1093h</b> (Reps. Leishman, Buco): AF <b>RC</b> 186-197 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 104                                                                                                                             |
| 4/7/2021  | H | FLAM <b>#2021-1094h</b> (Reps. Hatch, Leishman, Buco, Walz): AF <b>RC</b> 176-208 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 106                                                                                                                |
| 4/7/2021  | H | FLAM <b>#2021-1063h</b> (Rep. Hatch): AF <b>RC</b> 186-193 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 109                                                                                                                                       |
| 4/7/2021  | H | FLAM <b>#2021-1069h</b> (Reps. Nordgren, Rogers, Wallner): AF <b>RC</b> 180-201 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 115                                                                                                                  |
| 4/7/2021  | H | FLAM <b>#2021-1066h</b> (Reps. Rogers, Nordgren, Wallner): AF <b>RC</b> 184-194 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 117                                                                                                                  |
| 4/7/2021  | H | FLAM <b>#2021-1104h</b> (Rep. Almy): AF <b>RC</b> 161-218 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 120                                                                                                                                        |
| 4/7/2021  | H | <b>Ought to Pass with Amendment</b> 2021-1059h: MA <b>RC</b> 200-181 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 123                                                                                                                             |

|           |   |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4/7/2021  | H | Reconsider (Rep. Osborne): MF <b>RC</b> 175-204 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5 P. 125</b>                                                                                                         |
| 4/7/2021  | S | Introduced 04/01/2021 and Referred to Finance; <b>SJ 11</b>                                                                                                                           |
| 4/22/2021 | S | Remote <b>Hearing</b> : 05/04/2021, 01:00 pm; Links to join the hearing can be found in the Senate Calendar; <b>SC 21</b>                                                             |
| 4/22/2021 | S | Remote <b>Hearing</b> : 05/04/2021, 06:00 pm; Links to join the hearing can be found in the Senate Calendar; <b>SC 21</b>                                                             |
| 5/28/2021 | S | Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment <b>#2021-1799s</b> , 06/03/2021; <b>SC 26</b>                                                                                          |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. Soucy Moved to divide the Question on Committee Amendment 2021-1799s: on Sections 74-75: Sections 427-429, Sections 397-404; and Section 412; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>           |
| 6/3/2021  | S | The Chair ruled the Question Divisible; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                                                                      |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Committee Amendment <b>#2021-1799s</b> , on Sections 74-75 Sections 427-429 Sections 397-404 and Section 412, <b>RC</b> 24Y-0N, AA; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                          |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. Bradley Moved to divide the Question on Committee Amendment 2021-1799s Sections 89-102 and then the Remainder; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                          |
| 6/3/2021  | S | The Chair ruled the Question Divisible; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                                                                      |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Committee Amendment <b>#2021-1799s</b> , on Sections 89-102, <b>RC</b> 13Y-10N, AA; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                          |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Committee Amendment <b>#2021-1799s</b> , Remainder of the Committee Amendment, <b>RC</b> 14Y-10N, AA; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                        |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. Bradley Floor Amendment <b>#2021-1816s</b> , <b>RC</b> 24Y-0N, AA; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                                      |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. Whitley Floor Amendment <b>#2021-1862s</b> , <b>RC</b> 10Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                                     |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. Kahn Floor Amendment <b>#2021-1855s</b> , <b>RC</b> 10Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                                        |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. Rosenwald Floor Amendment <b>#2021-1850s</b> , <b>RC</b> 10Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                                   |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. Kahn Floor Amendment <b>#2021-1863s</b> , <b>RC</b> 10Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                                        |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. D'Allesandro Floor Amendment <b>#2021-1861s</b> ; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                                                       |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. Bradley Moved to divide the Question on Floor Amendment 2021-1861s on Sections 89-102 of the Amending Language and then the Remainder of the Amendment; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b> |
| 6/3/2021  | S | The Chair ruled the Question Divisible; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                                                                      |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Floor Amendment <b>#2021-1861s</b> , Sections 89-102 of the Amending Language, <b>RC</b> 10Y-13N, AF; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                        |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Floor Amendment 2021-1861s; on the Remainder of the Amendment <b>RC</b> 10Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                         |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. Rosenwald Floor Amendment <b>#2021-1858s</b> , <b>RC</b> 9Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                                    |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. Perkins Kwoka Floor Amendment <b>#2021-1859s</b> , AA, VV; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                                              |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. Rosenwald Floor Amendment <b>#2021-1847s</b> , <b>RC</b> 9Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                                    |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. Birdsell Floor Amendment <b>#2021-1842s</b> , <b>RC</b> 14Y-9N, AA; 06/03/2021; <b>SJ 18</b>                                                                                     |
| 6/3/2021  | S | Sen. Soucy Floor Amendment <b>#2021-1874s</b> , <b>RC</b> 9Y-14N, AF;                                                                                                                 |

06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Kahn Floor Amendment #2021-1876s, RC 9Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Whitley Floor Amendment #2021-1883s, RC 9Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Sherman Floor Amendment #2021-1878s, RC 9Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Rosenwald Floor Amendment #2021-1875s, RC 9Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Kahn Floor Amendment #2021-1852s, RC 9Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Whitley Floor Amendment #2021-1867s, RC 9Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Soucy Floor Amendment #2021-1815s, RC 9Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Rosenwald Floor Amendment #2021-1882s, RC 9Y-14N, AF; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Daniels Floor Amendment #2021-1821s, AA, VV; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Carson Floor Amendment #2021-1827s, AA, VV; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Giuda Floor Amendment #2021-1838s, RC 8Y-15N, AF; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Hennessey Floor Amendment #2021-1866s, AA, VV; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Bradley Floor Amendment #2021-1884s, AA, VV; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Sen. Bradley Moved to divide the Question on **Ought to Pass with Amendment** on Sections 89-102 and then the Remainder of the Bill; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S The Chair ruled the Question Divisible; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S **Ought to Pass with Amendment** on Sections 89-102, RC 13Y-9N, MA, 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S **Ought to Pass with Amendment** on the Remainder of the Bill, RC 14Y-9N, MA, OT3rdg; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/3/2021 S Without Objection, the Clerk is authorized to make technical and administrative corrections which are necessary to reflect the intent of the Senate, Relative to Bills and Amendments Passed Today, MA; 06/03/2021; **SJ 18**

6/9/2021 H House Non-Concurs with Senate Amendment 2021-1799s and 2021-1816s and 2021-1859s and 2021-1842s and 2021-1821s and 2021-1827s and 2021-1866s and 2021-1884s and Requests CofC (Reps. L. Ober, Weyler, Umberger, Turcotte, Packard): MA VV 06/04/2021 **HJ 9 P. 53**

6/9/2021 H Speaker Appoints Alternates: Reps. Edwards, Leishman, Wallner, Major, Emerick 06/04/2021 **HJ 9 P. 53**

6/10/2021 S Sen. Daniels Accedes to House Request for Committee of Conference, MA, VV; (In recess 06/03/2021); **SJ 19**

6/10/2021 S President Appoints: Senators Morse, Bradley, Rosenwald; (In Recess 06/03/2021); **SJ 19**

6/10/2021 H ==RECESSED== Conference Committee Meeting: 06/14/2021 11:00 am LOB 210-211

|           |   |                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6/14/2021 | H | Conferee Change: Rep. Erf added as Alternate 06/10/2021                                                                              |
| 6/15/2021 | H | ==RECESSED== Conference Committee Meeting: 06/15/2021 01:00 pm LOB 210-211                                                           |
| 6/16/2021 | H | ==RECESSED== Conference Committee Meeting: 06/16/2021 01:00 pm LOB 210-211                                                           |
| 6/17/2021 | H | ==CONTINUED== Conference Committee Meeting: 06/17/2021 10:00 am LOB 210-211                                                          |
| 6/17/2021 | S | Conferee Change; Senator Daniels Replaces Senator Rosenwald; <b>SJ 20</b>                                                            |
| 6/17/2021 | H | Conferee Change: Rep. Edwards Replaces Rep. Turcotte 06/10/2021                                                                      |
| 6/17/2021 | H | Conferee Change: Rep. Emerick Replaces Rep. Packard 06/10/2021                                                                       |
| 6/17/2021 | S | Conference Committee Report Filed, <b>#2021-2040c</b> ; 06/24/2021                                                                   |
| 6/24/2021 | S | Conference Committee Report <b>#2021-2040c</b> ; <b>RC 14Y-10N</b> , Adopted; 06/24/2021; <b>SJ 20</b>                               |
| 6/24/2021 | H | Conference Committee Report 2021-2040c: Adopted, <b>RC 198-181</b> 06/24/2021                                                        |
| 6/24/2021 | H | Reconsider (Rep. Osborne): MF DV 172-203 06/24/2021                                                                                  |
| 6/25/2021 | S | Enrolled Bill Amendment <b>#2021-2048e</b> Adopted, VV, (In recess of 06/24/2021); <b>SJ 20</b>                                      |
| 6/25/2021 | H | Enrolled Bill Amendment <b>#2021-2048e</b> : AA VV (in recess of) 06/24/2021                                                         |
| 6/25/2021 | S | Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 06/24/2021); <b>SJ 20</b>                                                                           |
| 6/25/2021 | H | Enrolled (in recess of) 06/24/2021                                                                                                   |
| 6/28/2021 | H | Signed by Governor Sununu 06/25/2021; Chapter 91; Unless otherwise specified the remainder of this act shall take effect: 07/01/2021 |

# Other Referrals

**Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives**

Bill Number: HB2-FN-A-LOCAL

Senate Committee: FINANCE

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

Final docket found on Bill Status

**Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}**

Bill version as it came to the committee

All Calendar Notices

Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)

Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions ~~handed in at the public hearing~~

Hearing Report

Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

**Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}**

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

- amendment # 1799S  - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

- amendment # \_\_\_\_\_  - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Session Sheet

Committee Report

x amend 1883  
x amend 1873  
x amend 1878  
x amend 1875

**Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}**

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

- amendment # 1816  - amendment # 1850

- amendment # 1862  - amendment # 1863

- amendment # 1855  - amendment # 1861

x amendment # 1858  
x amendment # 1859  
x amendment # 1847  
x amendment # 1842  
x amendment # 1874  
x amendment # 1876  
x amend 1883  
x amend 1867  
x amend 1815  
x amend 1882  
x amend 1821  
x amend 1827

**Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}**

Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

Governor's Veto Message

x amend 1838  
x amend 1866  
x amend 1884

**All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}**

as amended by the senate  as amended by the house

final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

Deb Martone  
Committee Aide

07/28/21  
Date

Senate Clerk's Office \_\_\_\_\_